SERVANT SERVICE.1

1

Karino Takatsu

SERVANT × SERVICE

1

WORK:1 003
WORK:2 015
WORK:3 025
WORK:4 035
WORK:5 041
WORK:6 047
WORK:7 053
WORK:8 061
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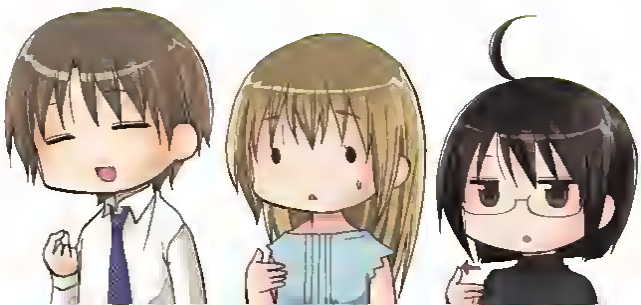
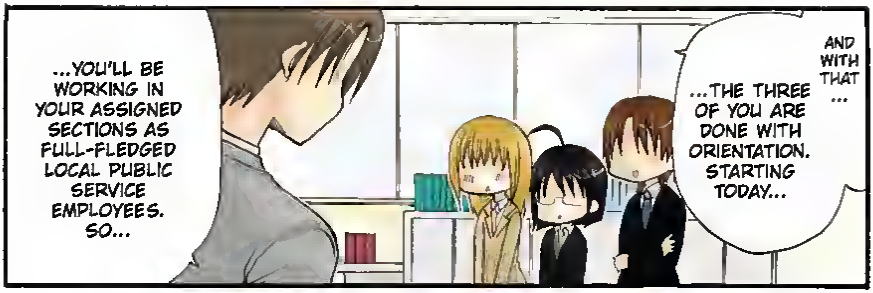
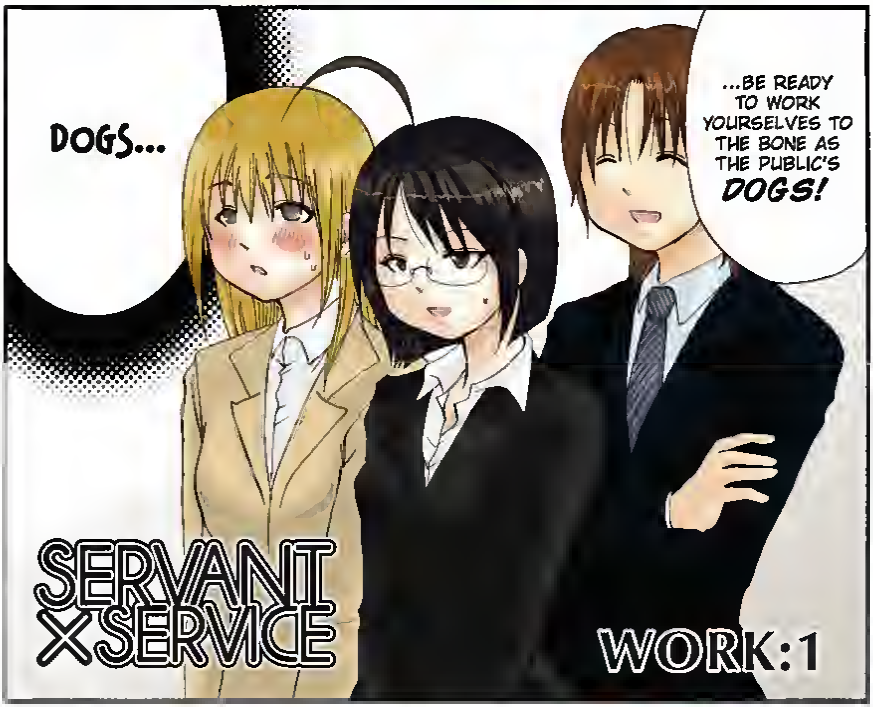
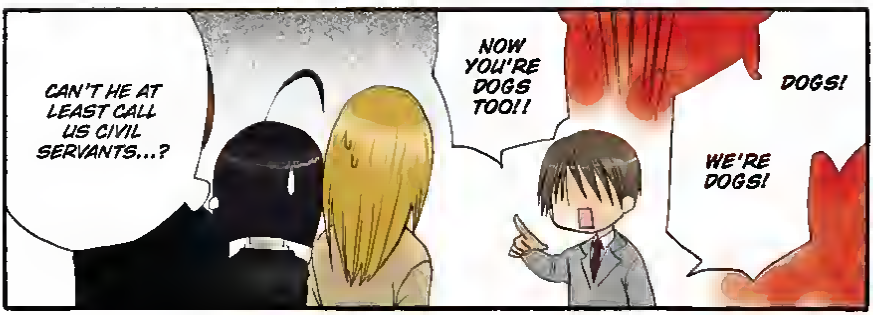
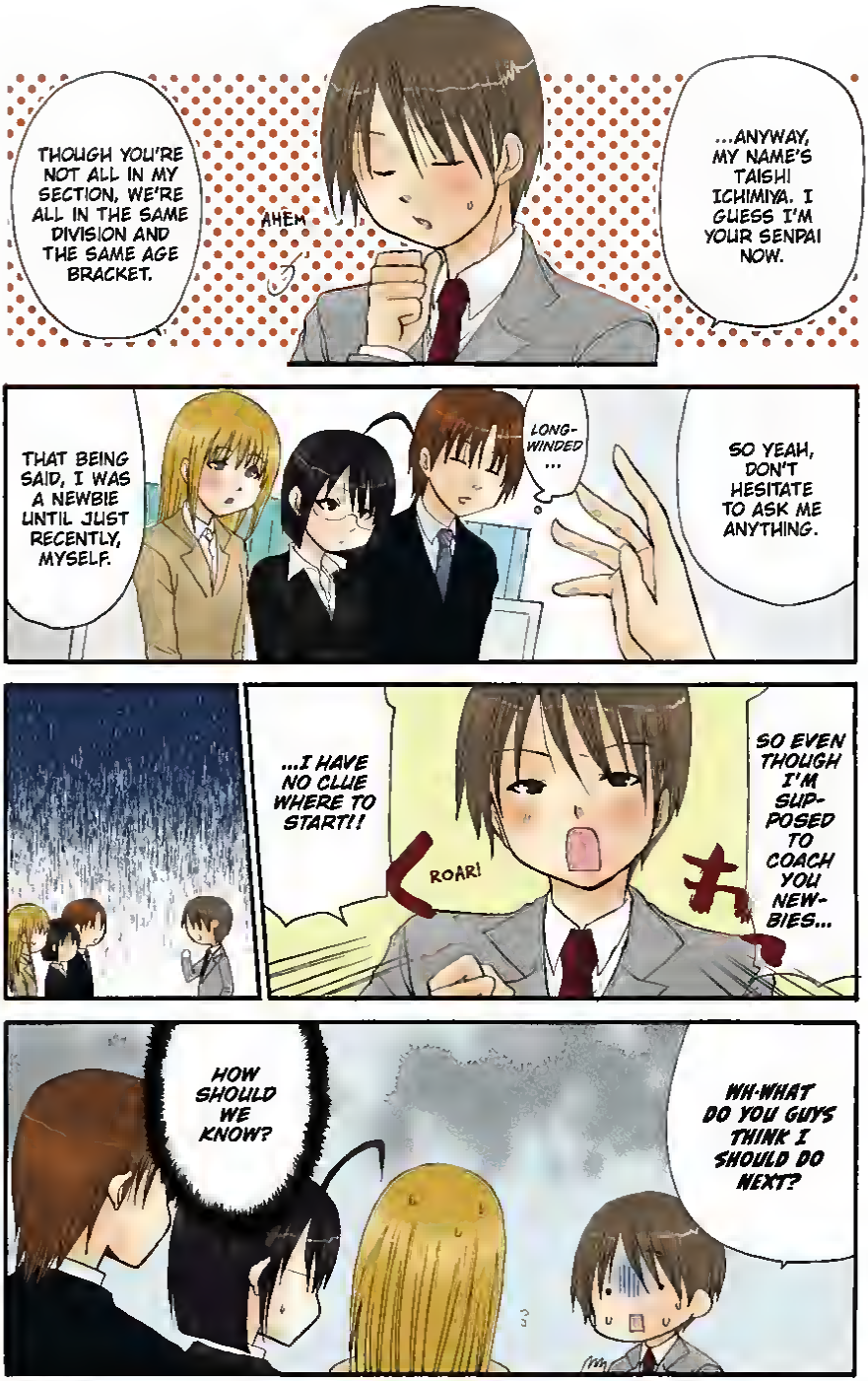


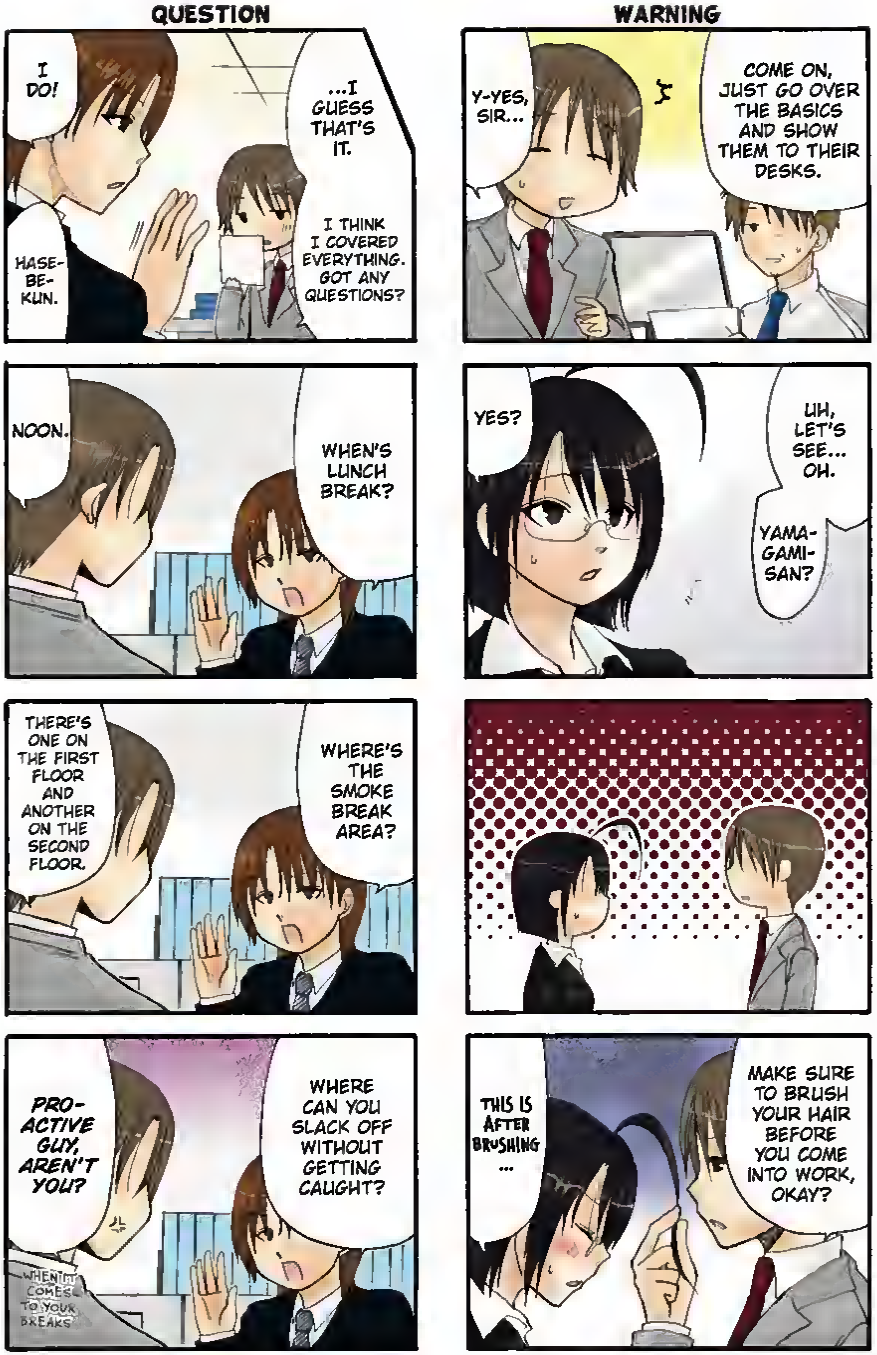
A CERTAIN CITY, A CERTAIN PUBLIC SERVICE OFFICE BUILDING...
STARTING HERE AS OF TODAY...
CHATTER
CHATTER
ざわ ざわ
...DOWN IN THE HEALTH & WELFARE DEPARTMENT.
I'M SAYA MIYOSHI.
I-IN THE WELFARE DIVISION, SECTION TWO...
WELFARE BENEFITS ADMINIS-TRATION.
MY NAME IS..... YAMA-GAMI.
WELFARE DIVISION, SECTION ONE.
THE NAME'S YUTAKA HASEBE !


AND WITH THAT...
...THE THREE OF YOU ARE DONE WITH ORIENTATION. STARTING TODAY...
...YOU'LL BE WORKING IN YOUR ASSIGNED SECTIONS AS FULL-FLEDGED LOCAL PUBLIC SERVICE EMPLOYEES. SO...

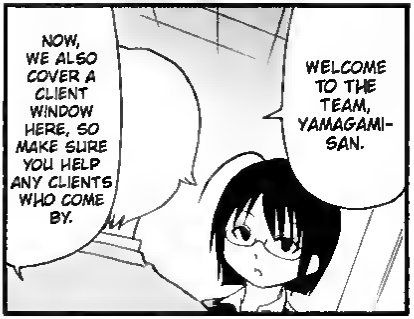

DOGS...
...BE READY TO WORK YOURSELVES TO THE BONE AS THE PUBLIC'S DOGS!
SERVANT X SERVICE
WORK:1

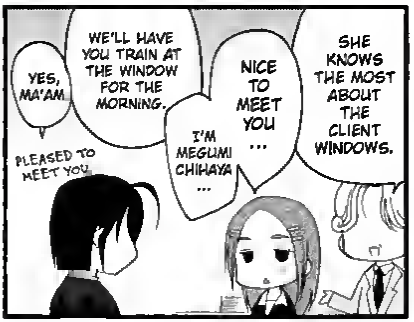

CAN'T HE AT LEAST CALL US CIVIL SERVANTS...?
NOW YOU'RE DOGS TOO!!
DOGS!
WE'RE DOGS!

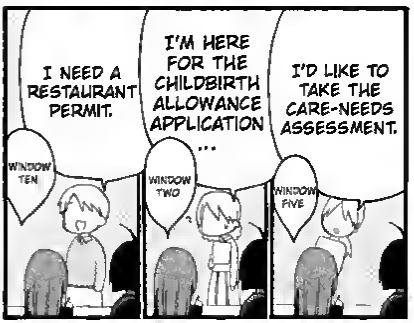

THOUGH YOU'RE NOT ALL IN MY SECTION, WE'RE ALL IN THE SAME DIVISION AND THE SAME AGE BRACKET.
AHEM
...ANYWAY, MY NAME'S TAISHI ICHIMIYA. I GUESS I'M YOUR SENPAI NOW.
THAT BEING SAID, I WAS A NEWBIE UNTIL JUST RECENTLY, MYSELF.
LONG-WINDED...
SO YEAH, DON'T HESITATE TO ASK ME ANYTHING.
...I HAVE NO CLUE WHERE TO START!!
ROAR!
SO EVEN THOUGH I'M SUPPOSED TO COACH YOU NEWBIES...
HOW SHOULD WE KNOW?
WH-WHAT DO YOU GUYS THINK I SHOULD DO NEXT?


QUESTION
WARNING
I DO!
...I GUESS THAT'S IT.
HASE-BE-KUN.
I THINK I COVERED EVERYTHING. GOT ANY QUESTIONS?
Y-YES, SIR...
COME ON, JUST GO OVER THE BASICS AND SHOW THEM TO THEIR DESKS.
NOON.
WHEN'S LUNCH BREAK?
YES?
UH, LET'S SEE... OH.
YAMA-GAMI-SAN?
THERE'S ONE ON THE FIRST FLOOR AND ANOTHER ON THE SECOND FLOOR.
WHERE'S THE SMOKE BREAK AREA?
PRO-ACTIVE GUY, AREN'T YOU?
WHERE CAN YOU SLACK OFF WITHOUT GETTING CAUGHT?
WHEN IT COMES TO YOUR BREAKS
THIS IS AFTER BRUSHING ...
MAKE SURE TO BRUSH YOUR HAIR BEFORE YOU COME INTO WORK, OKAY?

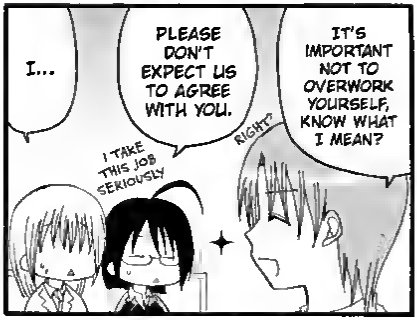
MYSTERY TEAM

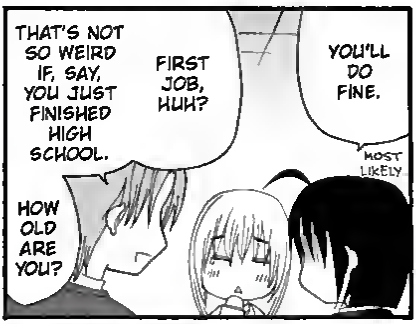


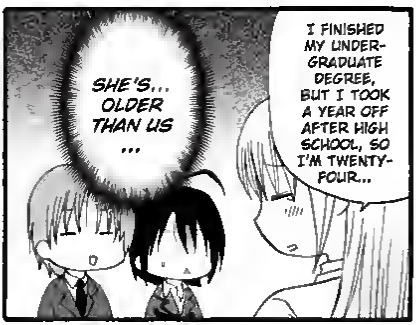

SHE KNOWS THE MOST ABOUT THE CLIENT WINDOWS.
NICE TO MEET YOU ...
I'M MEGUMI CHIHAYA ...
WE'LL HAVE YOU TRAIN AT THE WINDOW FOR THE MORNING.
YES, MA'AM.
PLEASED TO MEET YOU.


I'D LIKE TO TAKE THE CARE-NEEDS ASSESSMENT.
I'M HERE FOR THE CHILDBIRTH ALLOWANCE APPLICATION ...
I NEED A RESTAURANT PERMIT.
WINDOW TEN
WINDOW TWO
WINDOW FIVE

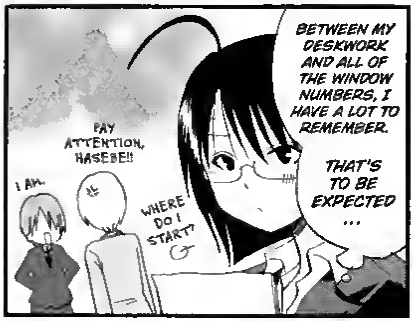
SURPRISINGLY

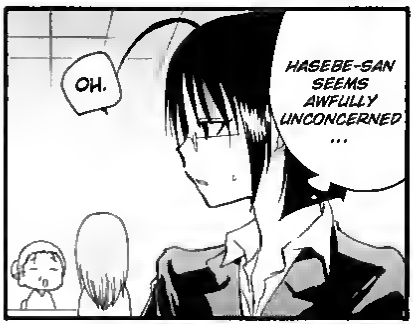

IT'S IMPORTANT NOT TO OVERWORK YOURSELF, KNOW WHAT I MEAN?
PLEASE DON'T EXPECT US TO AGREE WITH YOU.
I...
I TAKE THIS JOB SERIOUSLY
RIGHT?

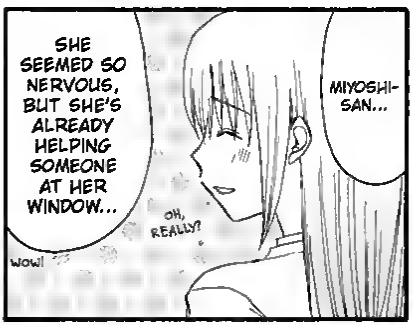


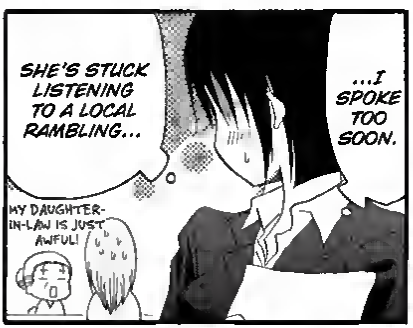


CONTEMPORARIES

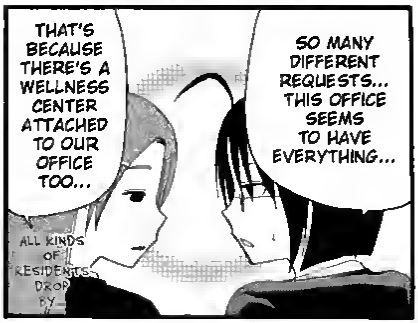

BETWEEN MY DESKWORK AND ALL OF THE WINDOW NUMBERS, I HAVE A LOT TO REMEMBER.
THAT'S TO BE EXPECTED ...
PAY ATTENTION, HASEBE!!
I AM.
WHERE DO I START?

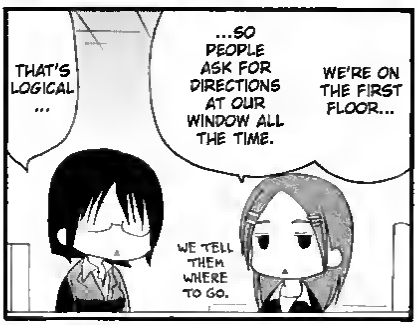


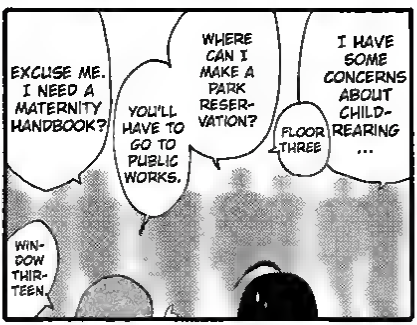




INFORMATION DESK?

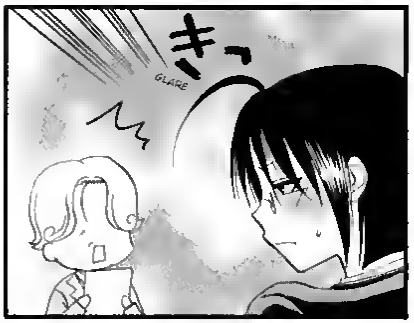

SO MANY DIFFERENT REQUESTS... THIS OFFICE SEEMS TO HAVE EVERYTHING...
THAT'S BECAUSE THERE'S A WELLNESS CENTER ATTACHED TO OUR OFFICE TOO...
ALL KINDS OF RESIDENTS DROP BY—



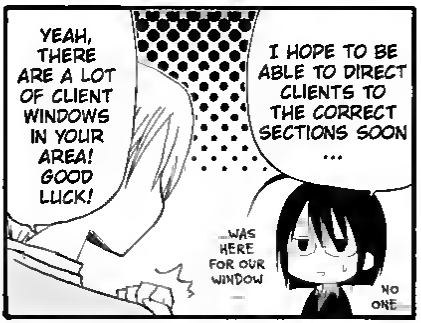

EXCUSE ME. I NEED A MATERNITY HANDBOOK?
YOU'LL HAVE TO GO TO PUBLIC WORKS.
WHERE CAN I MAKE A PARK RESER-VATION?
FLOOR THREE
I HAVE SOME CONCERNS ABOUT CHILD-REARING ...
WIN-DOW THIR-TEEN.

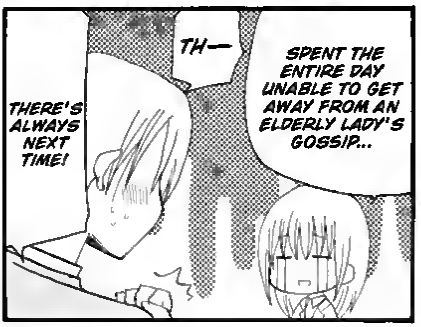
THOSE WHO CAN'T
STILL, I COULDN'T POSSIBLY IGNORE HER ...
I GET THE FEELING THIS ISN'T THE LISTENING WE'RE MEANT TO DO THOUGH.
I'VE BEEN LIKE THIS FOR AGES NOW... BUT LISTENING TO RESIDENTS IS PART OF THE JOB, SO MAYBE IT'S OKAY?
MY DAUGHTER-IN-LAW...
MM-HM...
MM-HM...
OHH, WHAT SHOULD I DO!?
HASE-BE-SAN ...
MIYO-SHI-CHAN.
GIMME YOUR PHONE NUMBER.
HONESTLY, THAT DAUGHTER-IN-LAW OF MINE
I'LL SETTLE FOR YOUR E-MAIL!
PRETTY PLEASE?
AH...
E-MAIL!
THOSE WHO CAN
ALREADY GOTS IT MEMORIZED.
DON'T START GOOFING OFF ON DAY ONE!
DIDN'T I TELL YOU TO READ THAT MANUAL?
YEAH!
ARE YOU FOR REAL?
...
OKAY THEN, ANY QUETIONS?
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
EVER SINCE I WAS A KID, I'VE ALWAYS BEEN PERFECT AT EVERYTHING. THERE'S NOTHING I'M BAD AT...
OH YEAH, I SUCK AT THAT.
PAT
START SHOWING YOUR SUPERIORS SOME RESPECT.

REBELLIOUS

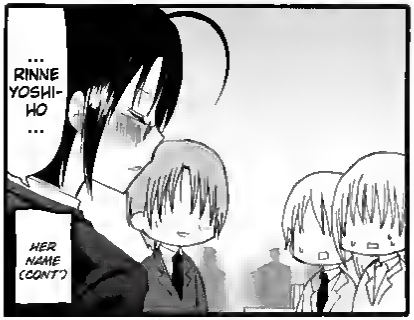


FIRST DAY IMPRESSIONS

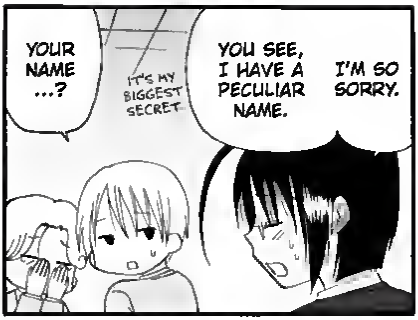

YEAH, THERE ARE A LOT OF CLIENT WINDOWS IN YOUR AREA! GOOD LUCK!
I HOPE TO BE ABLE TO DIRECT CLIENTS TO THE CORRECT SECTIONS SOON ...
...WAS HERE FOR OUR WINDOW
NO ONE



REAL NAME (CONT')

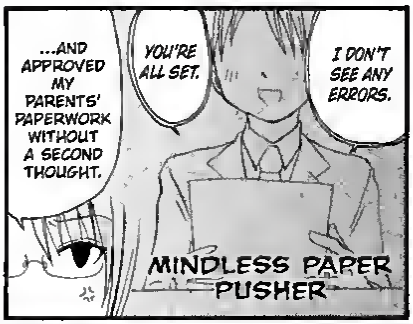


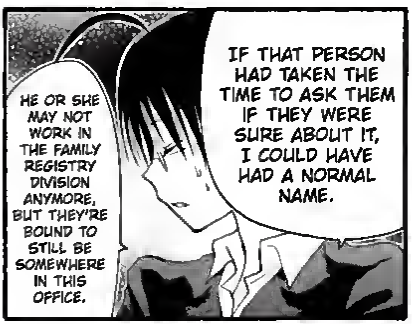
REAL NAME



...I MANAGED TO OBFUSCATE THIS ON MY RESUME.
NO ONE WILL JUDGE YOU IF IT'S A LITTLE ODD.
WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?
OUT WITH IT!!
HERE GOES .. MY NAME SHOULD HAVE READ...

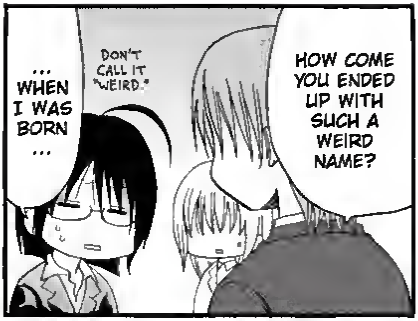
ARCHENEMY

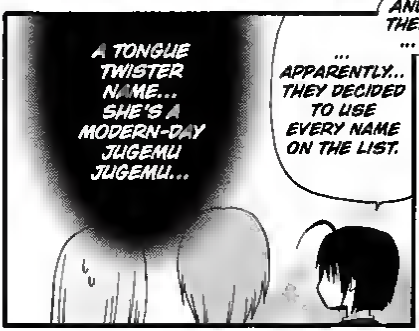



HE OR SHE MAY NOT WORK IN THE FAMILY REGISTRY DIVISION ANYMORE, BUT THEY'RE BOUND TO STILL BE SOMEWHERE IN THIS OFFICE.
IF THAT PERSON HAD TAKEN THE TIME TO ASK THEM IF THEY WERE SURE ABOUT IT, I COULD HAVE HAD A NORMAL NAME.

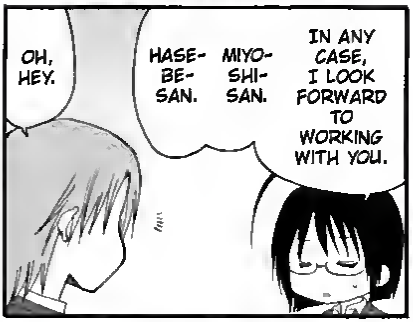
GIVE THAT PIECE OF YOUR MIND TO YOUR PARENTS.
I BECAME A CIVIL SERVANT SO THAT I COULD HUNT THEM DOWN AND GIVE THEM A PIECE OF MY MIND!

NAMING

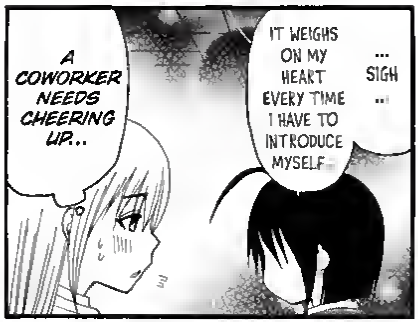


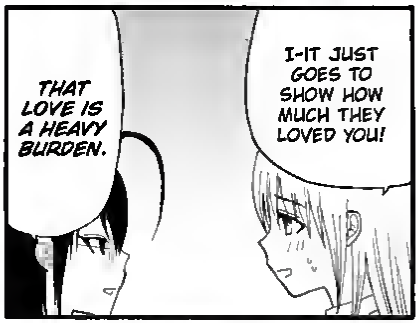


FRESH INTRODUCTIONS

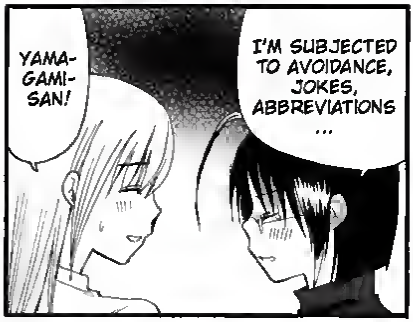


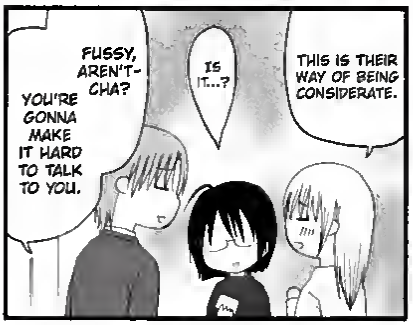
EMOTIONAL SUPPORT

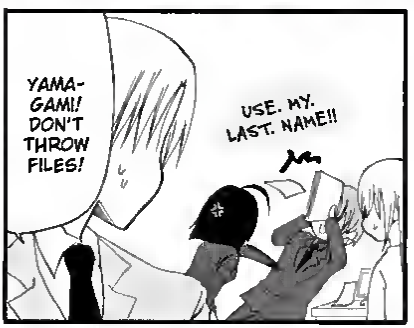




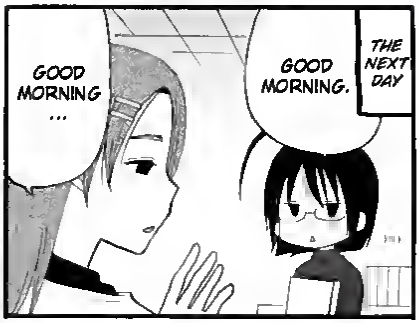
PREFERRED NAME



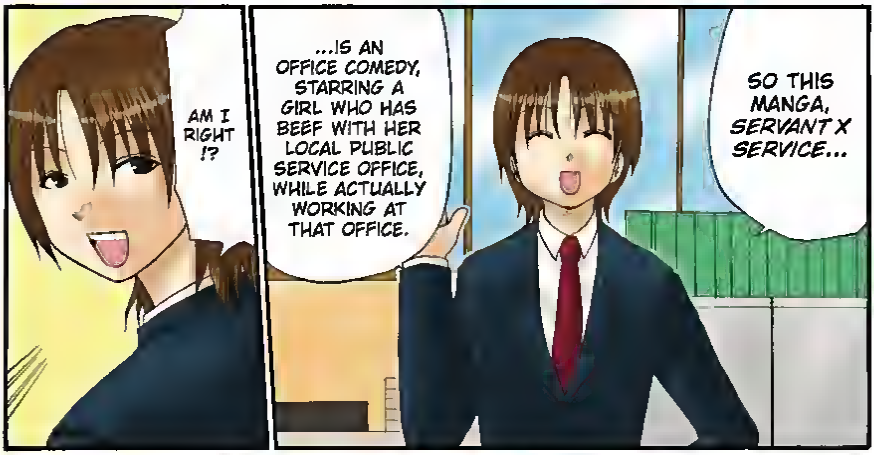


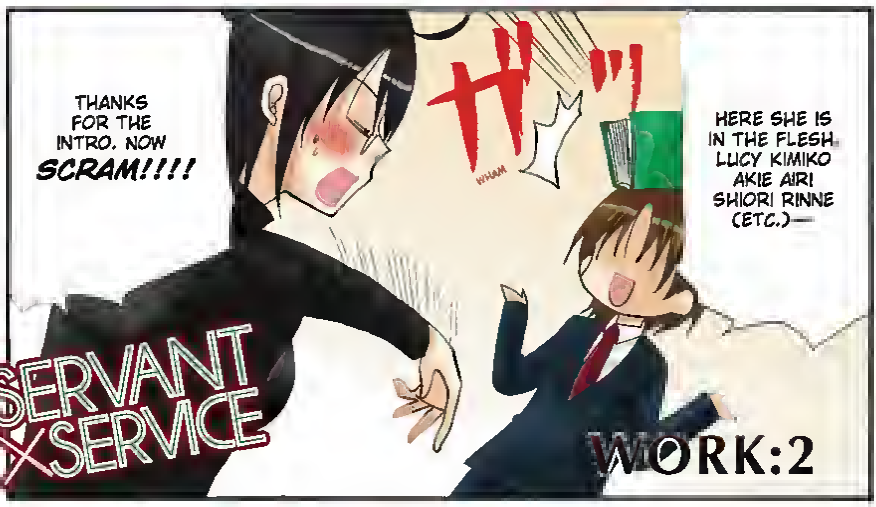


NAME BADGE



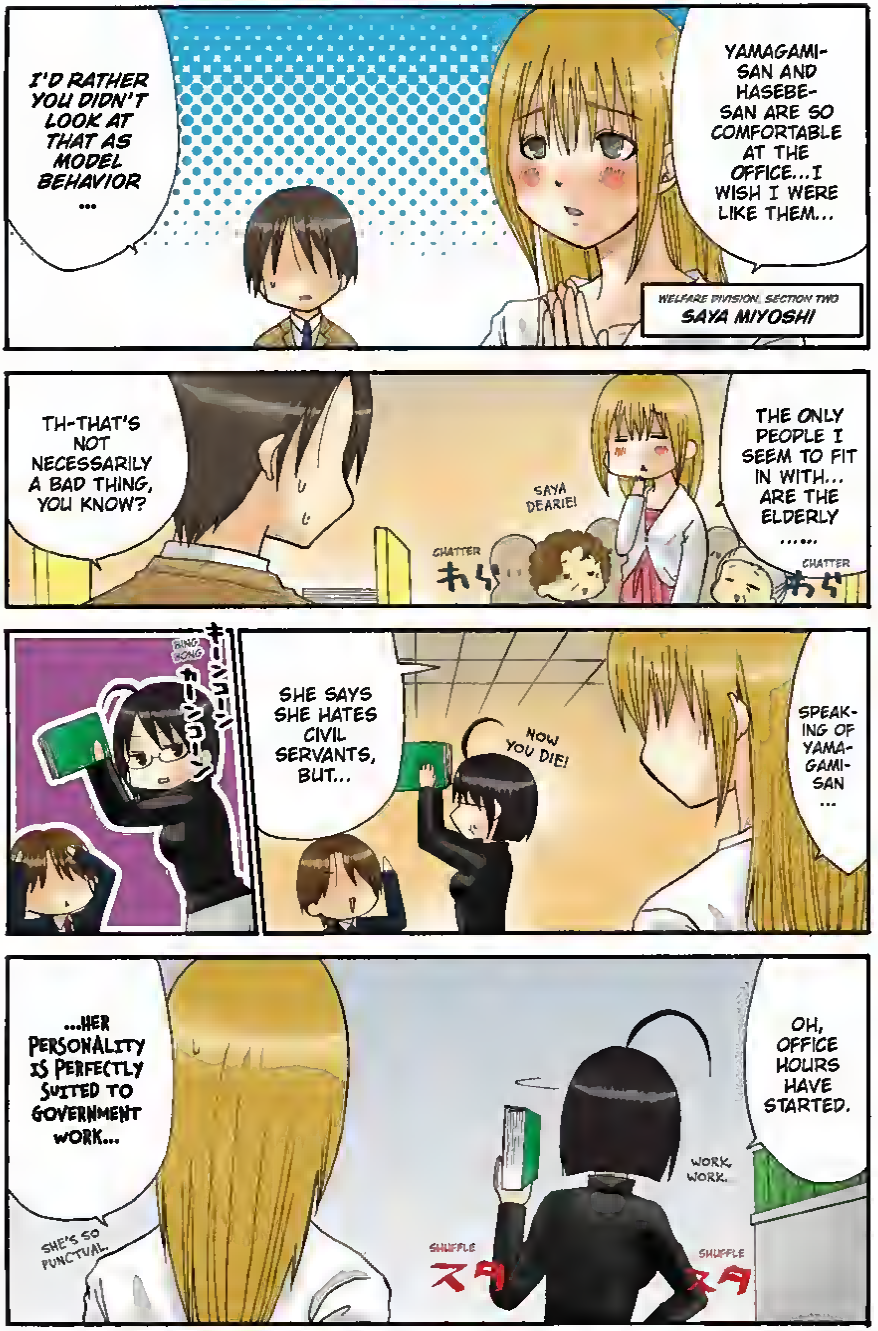
GOOOOD MORNING, CITIZENS!
WELFARE DIVISION, SECTION ONE
YUTAKA HASEBE
WOULDN'T BLAME YOU FOR FORGETTING SOME OF THIS, SO REINTRODUCTIONS ARE IN ORDER. YUTAKA HASEBE, THAT'S YOURS TRULY!


SO THIS MANGA, SERVANT X SERVICE...
...IS AN OFFICE COMEDY, STARRING A GIRL WHO HAS BEEF WITH HER LOCAL PUBLIC SERVICE OFFICE, WHILE ACTUALLY WORKING AT THAT OFFICE.
AM I RIGHT !?

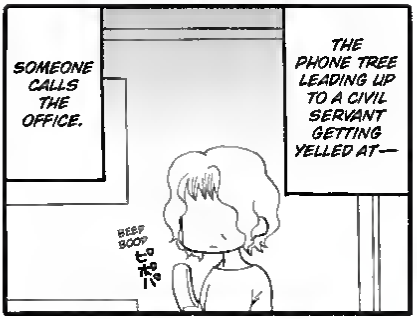

HERE SHE IS IN THE FLESH. LUCY KIMIKO AKIE AIRI SHIORI RINNE (ETC.)—
WHAM
THANKS FOR THE INTRO. NOW SCRAM!!!!
SERVANT X SERVICE
WORK:2

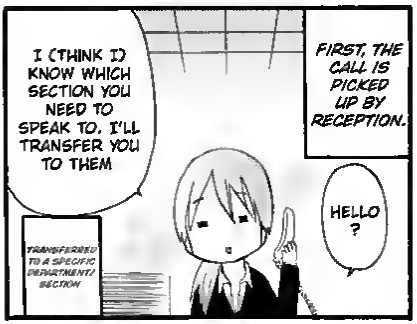
YAMAGAMI, DON'T USE OFFICE DOCUMENTS TO HIT HASEBE...
GOT ME SQUARE IN THE HEAD
TAISHI ICHIMIYA
GOOD GRIEF ...
THAT'S... GOOD, I GUESS?
IT'S JUST BLANK PAPER INSIDE
I DON'T. I MADE THIS BINDER ON MY OWN TIME, YOU SEE.
HASEBE
...I'LL ADMIT TO HARBORING A PERSONAL GRUDGE AGAINST (ONE PERSON OUT OF MANY) CIVIL SERVANTS.
YOU'RE SO MEAN, LUCY. DON'T HIT ME JUST 'COS YOU HAVE A BEEF AGAINST CIVIL SERVANTS!
HOWEVER, YOU I DISLIKE AS A HUMAN BEING.
LUCY KIMIKO AKIE AIRI SHIORI RINNE (ETC.) YAMAGAMI

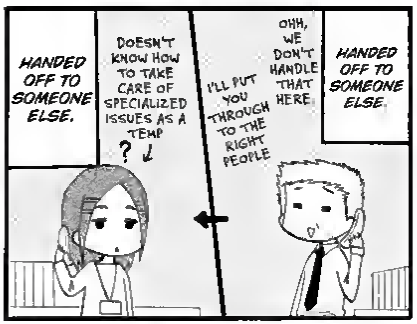
MIYOSHI-SAN, FEEL FREE TO HIT HIM.
NICE TO BE ON A FIRST-NAME BASIS, ISN'T IT, SAYA-CHAN?
IF YOU'D CALL ME BY MY LAST NAME, WE'D GET ALONG JUST FINE.
GEEZ, LUCY!
I'M ONLY TRYING TO MAKE FRIENDS WITH MY COWORKERS!
ICE QUEEN ...
COME AGAIN ?
SO BASICALLY, THERE'S NO PROBLEM IF WE'RE ON THE SAME LEVEL, RIGHT?
I GOT IT!
...
...YOU CAN CALL ME "TOM"!!
MAKES SENSE, DOESN'T IT?
'COS I'M YUTAKA
FROM NOW ON ...
OHH...
MWA-HA-HA! NOT THIS TIME!!
WHY WOULD ANYONE CALL YOU THAT!?


I'D RATHER YOU DIDN'T LOOK AT THAT AS MODEL BEHAVIOR ...
YAMAGAMI-SAN AND HASEBE-SAN ARE SO COMFORTABLE AT THE OFFICE...I WISH I WERE LIKE THEM...
WELFARE DIVISION, SECTION TWO
SAYA MIYOSHI
TH-THAT'S NOT NECESSARILY A BAD THING, YOU KNOW?
SAYA DEARIE!
CHATTER
おら...
THE ONLY PEOPLE I SEEM TO FIT IN WITH... ARE THE ELDERLY ....
CHATTER
おら
キーンコーン カーンコーン
DING DONG
SHE SAYS SHE HATES CIVIL SERVANTS, BUT...
NOW YOU DIE!
SPEAK-ING OF YAMA-GAMI-SAN ...
...HER PERSONALITY IS PERFECTLY SUITED TO GOVERNMENT WORK...
SHE'S SO PUNCTUAL.
SHUFFLE
スタ
SHUFFLE
スタ
WORK, WORK.
OH, OFFICE HOURS HAVE STARTED.

~PHONE TREE~

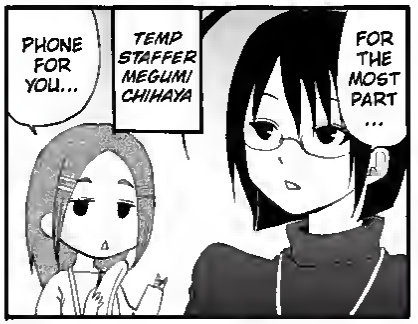


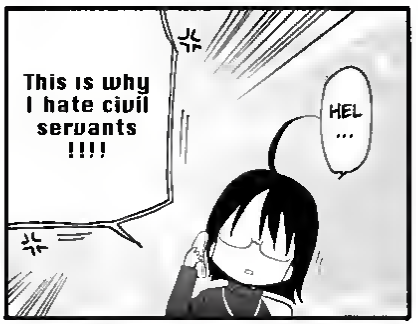

I (THINK I) KNOW WHICH SECTION YOU NEED TO SPEAK TO. I'LL TRANSFER YOU TO THEM
FIRST, THE CALL IS PICKED UP BY RECEPTION.
HELLO ?
TRANSFERRED TO A SPECIFIC DEPARTMENT/ SECTION


HANDED OFF TO SOMEONE ELSE.
DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO TAKE CARE OF SPECIALIZED ISSUES AS A TEMP
?
I'LL PUT YOU THROUGH TO THE RIGHT PEOPLE
OHH, WE DON'T HANDLE THAT HERE.
HANDED OFF TO SOMEONE ELSE.

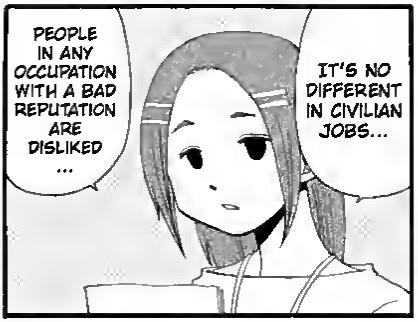
How many times are you people going to give me the runaround!?
FINALLY, THE EXPLOSION.
THE LAST EMPLOYEE ON THE LINE GETS CHEWED OUT

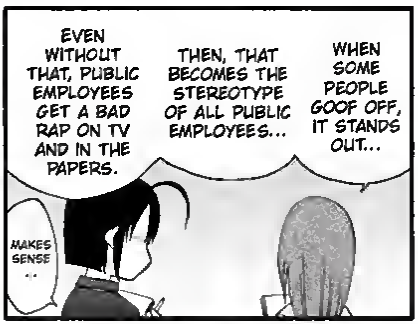
USED TO IT



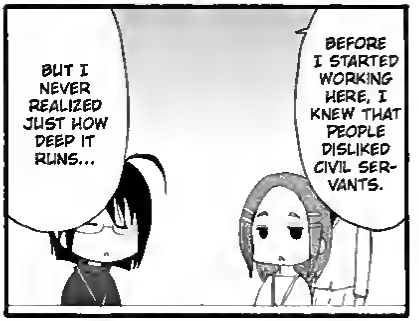


THE CULPRIT

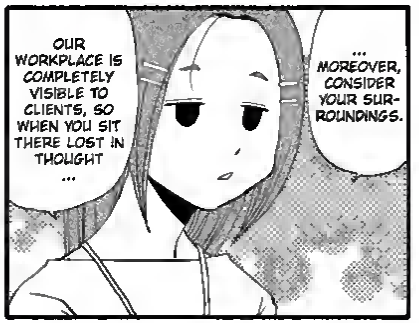


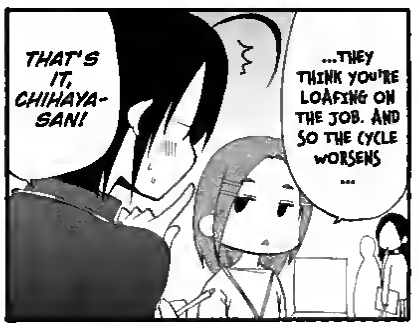

EVEN WITHOUT THAT, PUBLIC EMPLOYEES GET A BAD RAP ON TV AND IN THE PAPERS.
THEN, THAT BECOMES THE STEREOTYPE OF ALL PUBLIC EMPLOYEES...
WHEN SOME PEOPLE GOOF OFF, IT STANDS OUT...
MAKES SENSE ..

THE REASON FOR ALL THE HATE

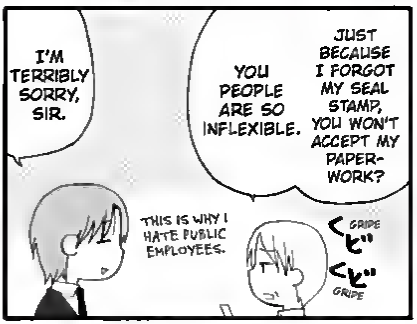


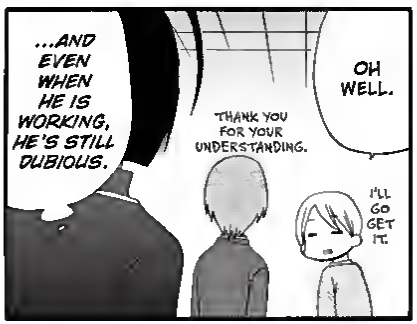
I TRY TO DO THE BEST I CAN...
IT MUST BE ROOTED IN HOW OUR PAYCHECKS COME OUT OF THEIR TAXES.
SOMETHING ABOUT US DRIVES THEM CRAZY.


OUR WORKPLACE IS COMPLETELY VISIBLE TO CLIENTS, SO WHEN YOU SIT THERE LOST IN THOUGHT ...
... MOREOVER, CONSIDER YOUR SURROUNDINGS.

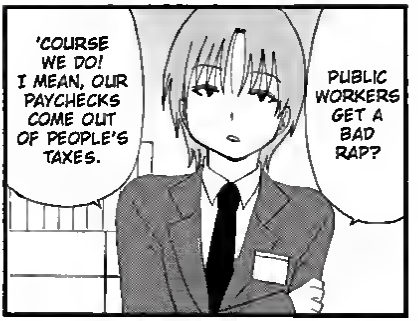


DEFINITELY DUBIOUS

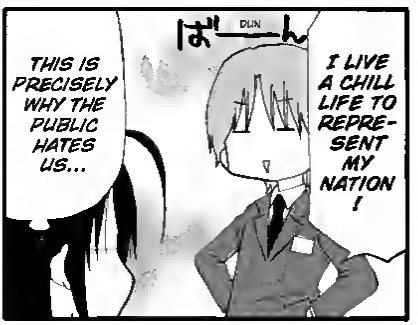

I'M TERRIBLY SORRY, SIR.
YOU PEOPLE ARE SO INFLEXIBLE.
JUST BECAUSE I FORGOT MY SEAL STAMP, YOU WON'T ACCEPT MY PAPER-WORK?
THIS IS WHY I HATE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES.
GRIPE
GRIPE



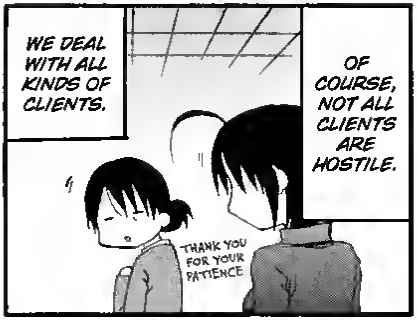
HIS CREED

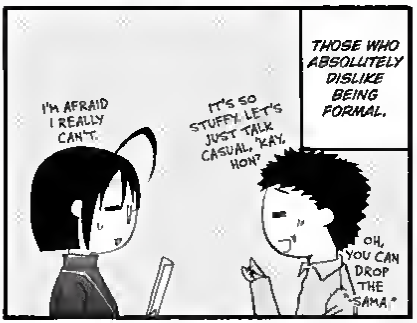


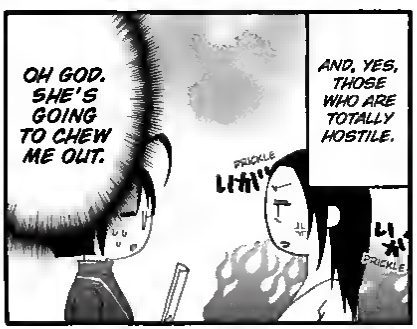
DO YOU HEAR YOURSELF? PUBLIC EMPLOYEES REPRESENT THE MOST IDEAL JOBS IN THEIR COUNTRY!
THEN AT LEAST TRY TO MAKE US LOOK BETTER, WILL YOU?



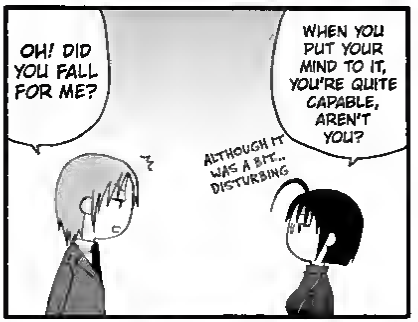
ALL KINDS OF CLIENTS



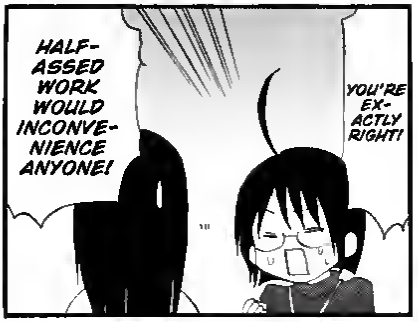

THOSE WHO ABSOLUTELY DISLIKE BEING FORMAL.
I'M AFRAID I REALLY CAN'T.
IT'S SO STUFFY. LET'S JUST TALK CASUAL, 'KAY, HON?
OH, YOU CAN DROP THE "-SAMA."

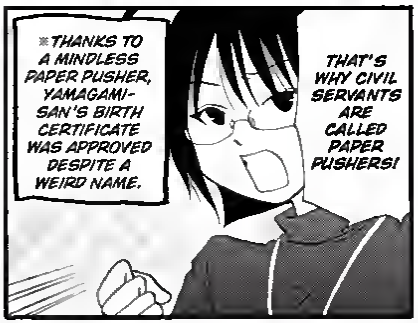


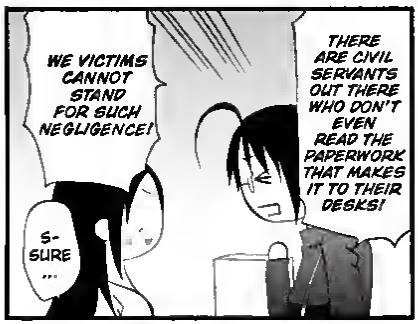
SECOND CHANCE

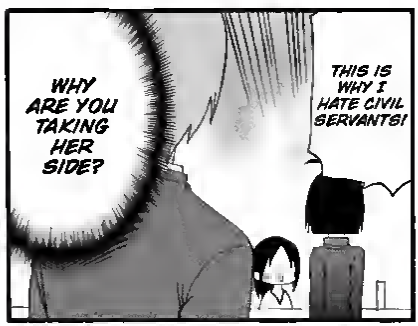


COULDN'T HAVE SAID IT BETTER

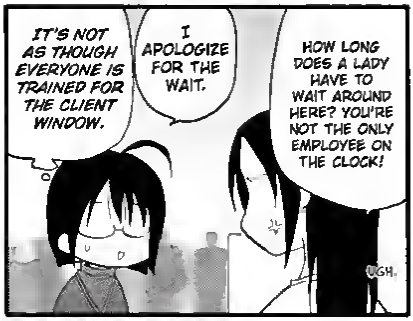



*THANKS TO A MINDLESS PAPER PUSHER, YAMAGAMI-SAN'S BIRTH CERTIFICATE WAS APPROVED DESPITE A WEIRD NAME.
THAT'S WHY CIVIL SERVANTS ARE CALLED PAPER PUSHERS!

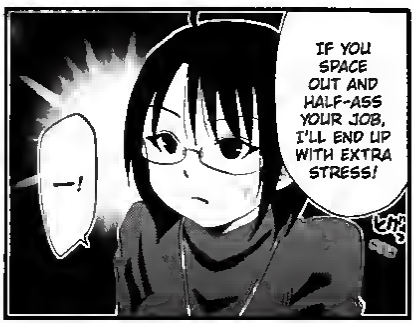

WE VICTIMS CANNOT STAND FOR SUCH NEGLIGENCE!
THERE ARE CIVIL SERVANTS OUT THERE WHO DON'T EVEN READ THE PAPERWORK THAT MAKES IT TO THEIR DESKS!
S-SURE...



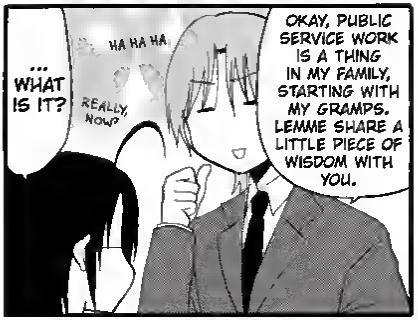
STRESSED


IT'S NOT AS THOUGH EVERYONE IS TRAINED FOR THE CLIENT WINDOW.
I APOLOGIZE FOR THE WAIT.
HOW LONG DOES A LADY HAVE TO WAIT AROUND HERE? YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY EMPLOYEE ON THE CLOCK!
UGH.

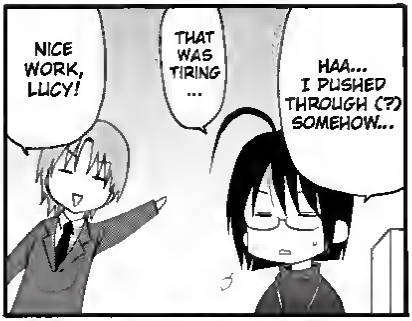
WOW
STAB
I'VE TAKEN TIME OUT OF MY BUSY SCHEDULE TO COME DOWN HERE, YOU KNOW! SO YOU BETTER GET THIS RIGHT!
OH DEAR.
NOW SHE'S TRYING TO PROVOKE ME...
STAB
YOU CIVIL SERVANTS HAVE IT SO EASY!
STAB

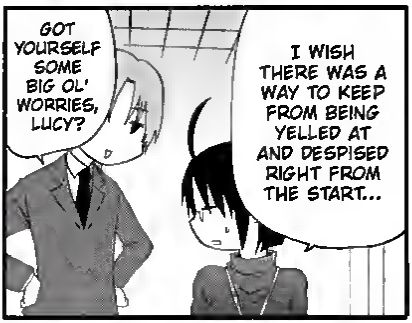


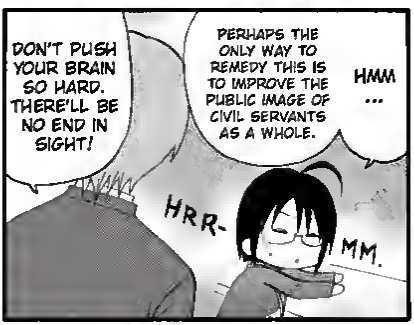
ANOTHER PART OF THE JOB


...
WHAT IS IT?
HA HA HA
REALLY, NOW?
OKAY, PUBLIC SERVICE WORK IS A THING IN MY FAMILY, STARTING WITH MY GRAMPS. LEMME SHARE A LITTLE PIECE OF WISDOM WITH YOU.

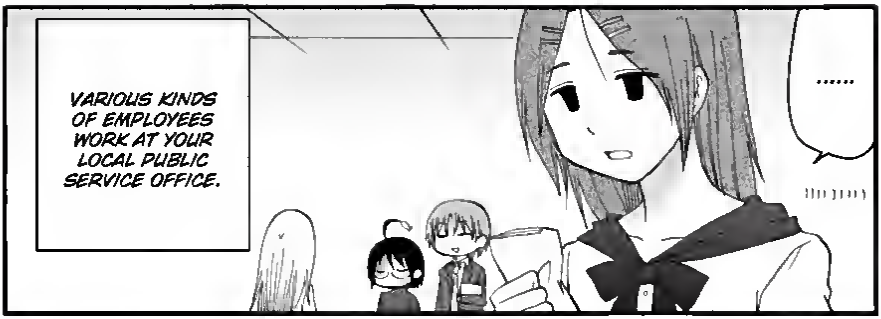
NO WORRIES

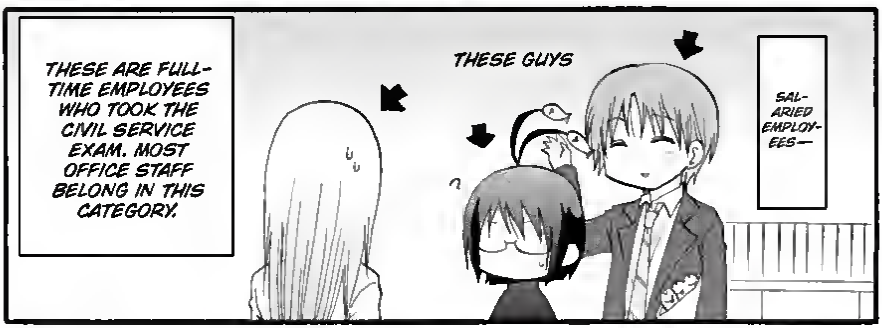


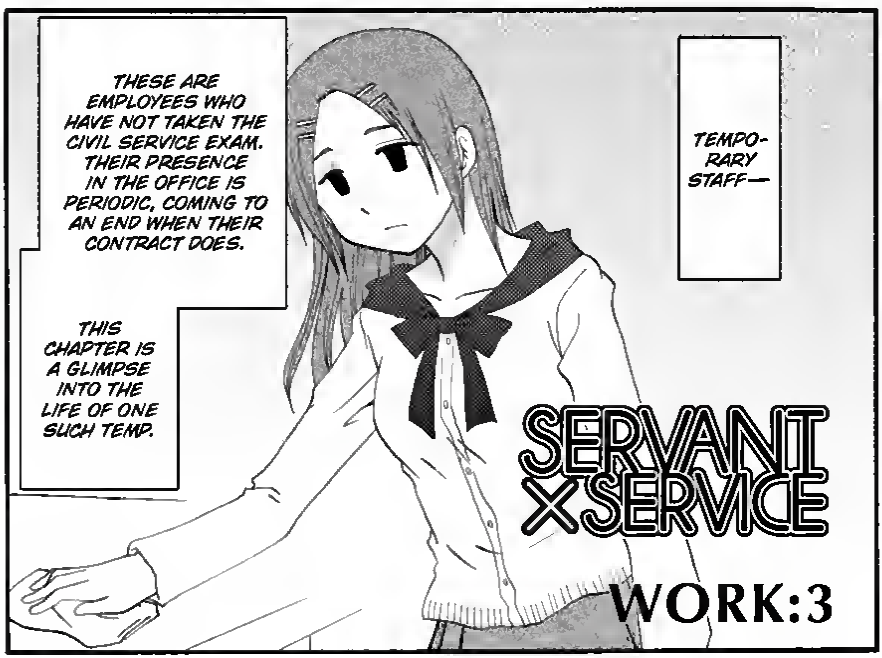


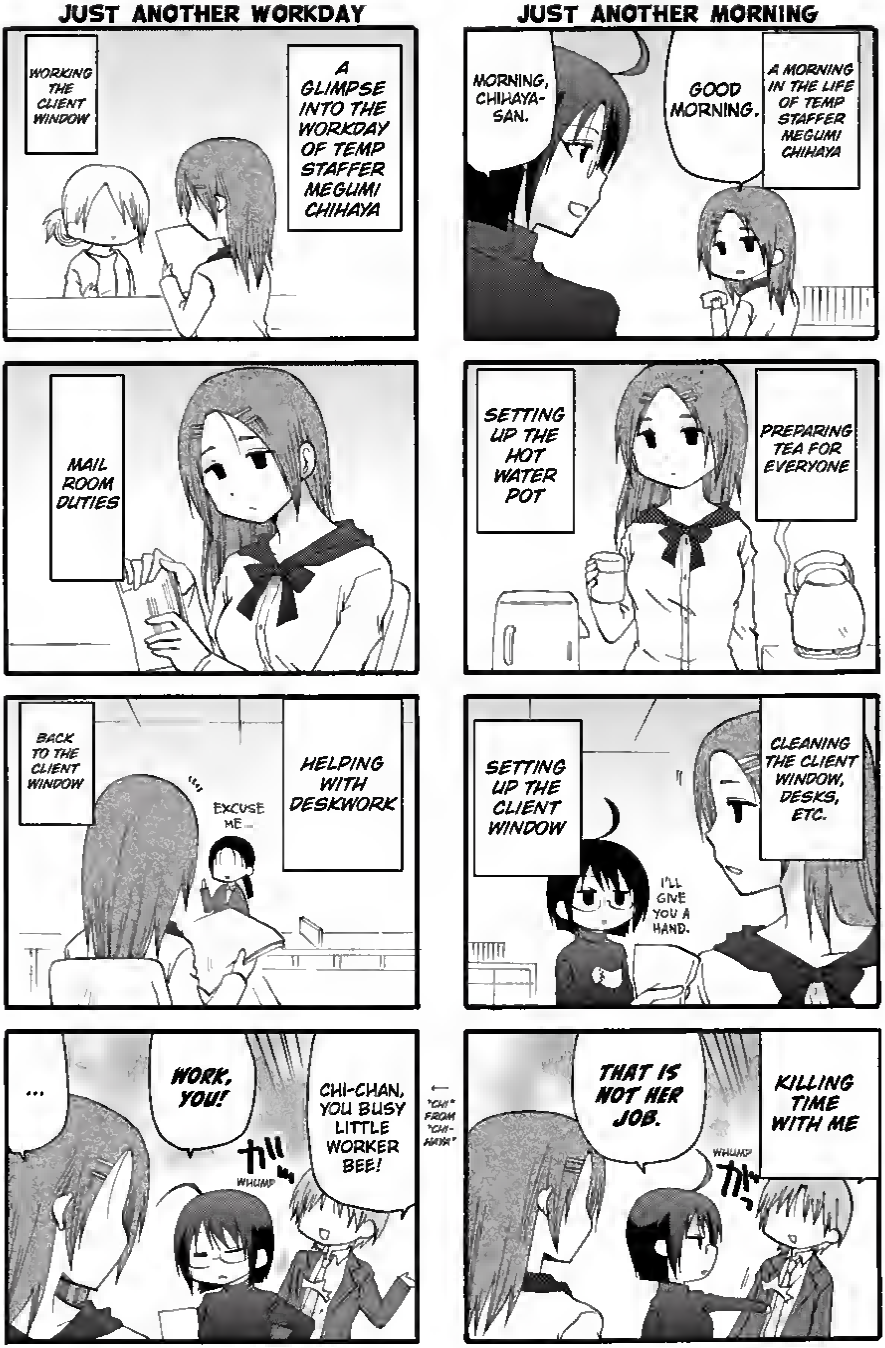

DON'T PUSH YOUR BRAIN SO HARD. THERE'LL BE NO END IN SIGHT!
PERHAPS THE ONLY WAY TO REMEDY THIS IS TO IMPROVE THE PUBLIC IMAGE OF CIVIL SERVANTS AS A WHOLE.
HMM ...
HRR-
MM.

THE NAME'S YUTAKA HASEBE!!
HELLO TO ALL YOU READERS, NEW AND OLD!
AND HERE WE HAVE SOME SNACKIES— TAIYAKI!
HE'S SO LOUD.
BACK THERE IS LUCY (ETC.) YAMAGAMI.
GOT A BITE!
DID YOU NEED SOME-THING?
THIS MANGA IS A CIVIL SERVICE OFFICE COMEDY.

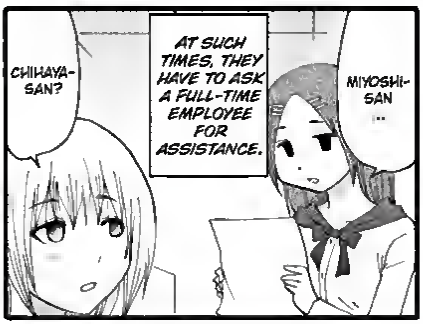

VARIOUS KINDS OF EMPLOYEES WORK AT YOUR LOCAL PUBLIC SERVICE OFFICE.
.....

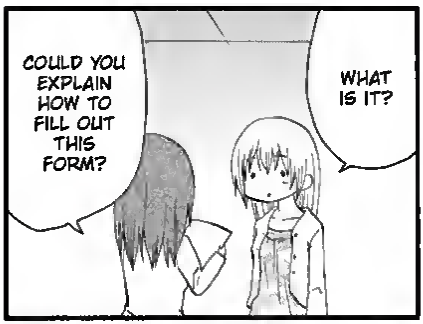

THESE ARE FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES WHO TOOK THE CIVIL SERVICE EXAM. MOST OFFICE STAFF BELONG IN THIS CATEGORY.
THESE GUYS
SALARIED EMPLOYEES—

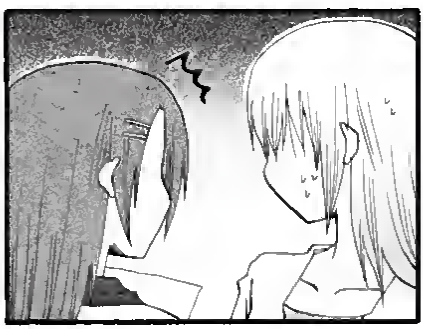

THESE ARE EMPLOYEES WHO HAVE NOT TAKEN THE CIVIL SERVICE EXAM. THEIR PRESENCE IN THE OFFICE IS PERIODIC, COMING TO AN END WHEN THEIR CONTRACT DOES.
THIS CHAPTER IS A GLIMPSE INTO THE LIFE OF ONE SUCH TEMP.
TEMPORARY STAFF—
SERVANT×SERVICE
WORK:3


JUST ANOTHER WORKDAY
WORKING THE CLIENT WINDOW
A GLIMPSE INTO THE WORKDAY OF TEMP STAFFER MEGUMI CHIHAYA
MAIL ROOM DUTIES
BACK TO THE CLIENT WINDOW
EXCUSE ME—
HELPING WITH DESKWORK
...
WORK, YOU!
WHUMP
CHI-CHAN, YOU BUSY LITTLE WORKER BEE!
← "CHI" FROM "CHI-HAYA"
JUST ANOTHER MORNING
MORNING, CHIHAYA-SAN.
GOOD MORNING.
A MORNING IN THE LIFE OF TEMP STAFFER MEGUMI CHIHAYA
SETTING UP THE HOT WATER POT
PREPARING TEA FOR EVERYONE
SETTING UP THE CLIENT WINDOW
I'LL GIVE YOU A HAND.
CLEANING THE CLIENT WINDOW, DESKS, ETC.
THAT IS NOT HER JOB.
WHUMP
KILLING TIME WITH ME

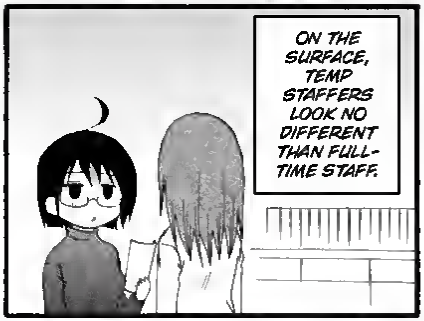
FULL-TIME STAFF: THOSE WHO CAN'T DO

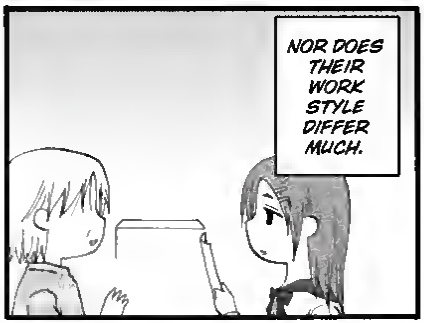


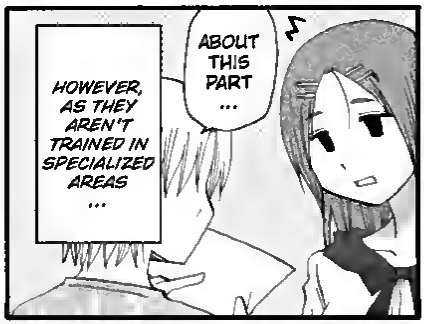


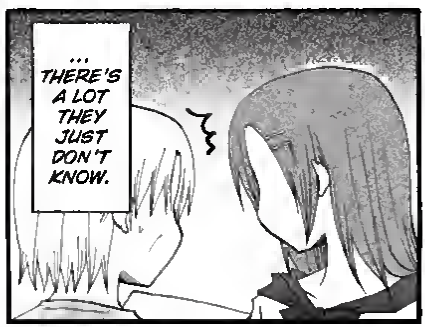


TEMP STAFF: THINGS THEY CAN'T DO

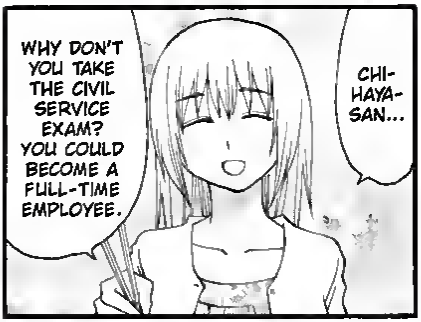


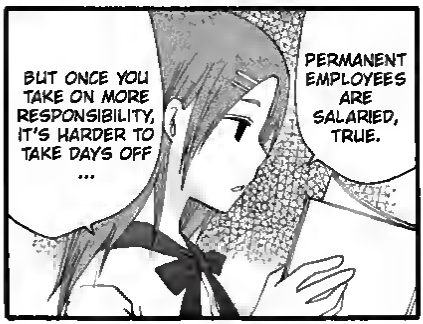






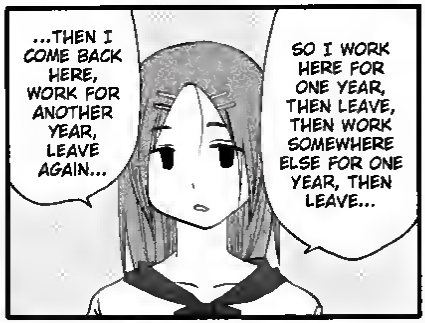
DIFFERENCE IN VACATION TIME





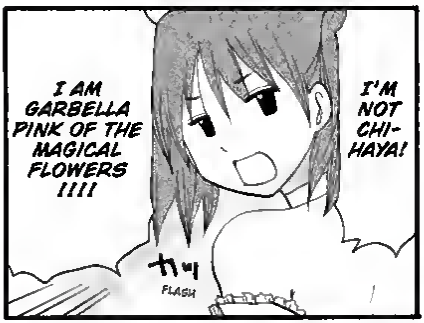
TEMP STAFF CONTRACTS

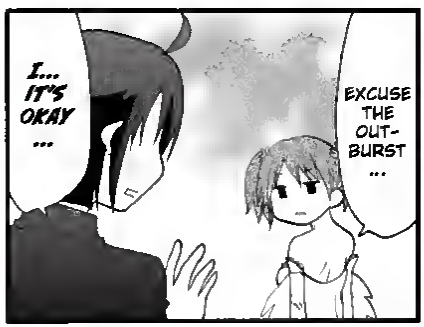
CHIHAYA-SAN, HOW LONG IS YOUR TEMP CONTRACT?
ONE YEAR ...
TEMPS CAN'T STAY IN THE SAME SPOT AFTER A CONTRACT IS UP... BUT IF YOU WAIT AWHILE, YOU CAN ROTATE BACK INTO A PREVIOUS WORKPLACE FOR ANOTHER YEAR.


SO I WORK HERE FOR ONE YEAR, THEN LEAVE, THEN WORK SOMEWHERE ELSE FOR ONE YEAR, THEN LEAVE...
...THEN I COME BACK HERE, WORK FOR ANOTHER YEAR, LEAVE AGAIN...

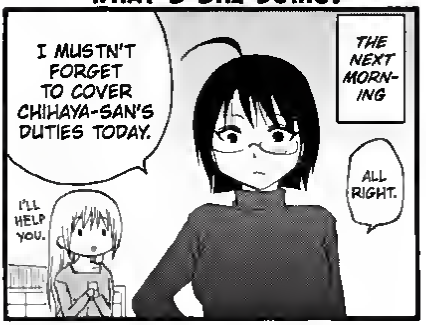
WHAT WOULD CHIHAYA ENJOY?
CHIHAYA-SAN REALLY HAS IT TOGETHER. I'M SURE SHE'D DO WELL FULL-TIME.
IT FEELS LIKE SUCH A WASTE OF POTENTIAL.
IT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS, BUT STILL.
UH!?
OH ...
I'M HAPPY BEING A TEMP...
TEMPS ARE PAID BY THE HOUR, SO IT'S SIMPLER TO ASK FOR A DAY OFF, AND THE WORK ITSELF ISN'T AS PRESSING...
TOO BAD
WOULDN'T THAT GET BORING?
TEMPS ARE STUCK WITH RANDOM ERRANDS AND ASSISTANT WORK.
YAMA-GAMI-SAN.
AH
I'M GOING TO THE LADIES' ROOM.
WE'LL BE HERE
I DON'T MIND AT ALL. WHAT ARE YOU TAKING OFF FOR?
OH, SURE.
WOULD YOU MIND TAKING OVER SOME OF MY DUTIES?
I HAVE PLANS TOMORROW, SO I'LL BE TAKING THE DAY OFF.
MAGICAL FLOWERS
SHE LOOKS HAPPY ...
OH MY
!?

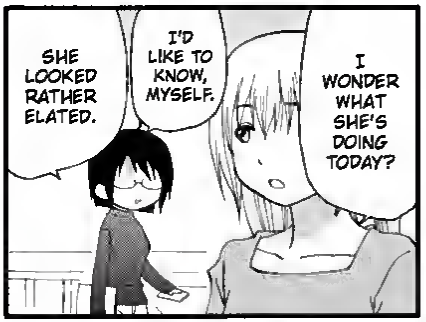
TRANSFORM!!



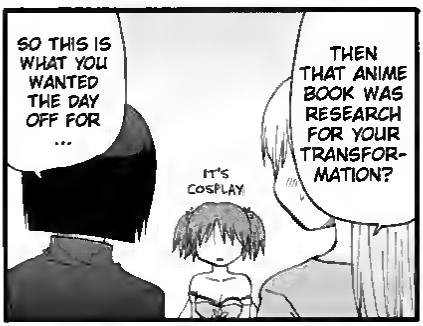


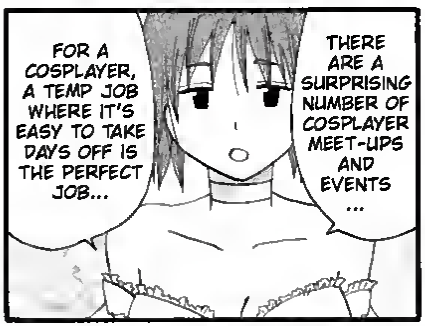
WHAT'S SHE DOING?

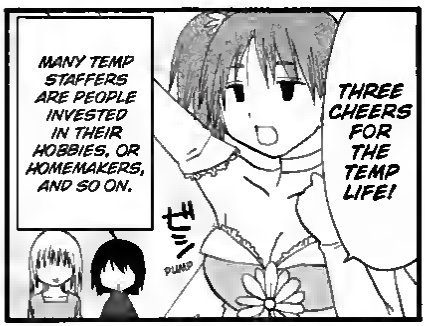




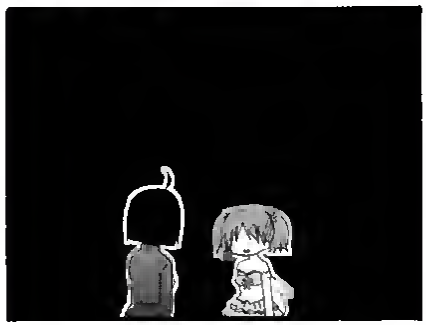
BEST JOB EVER




FOR A COSPLAYER, A TEMP JOB WHERE IT'S EASY TO TAKE DAYS OFF IS THE PERFECT JOB...
THERE ARE A SURPRISING NUMBER OF COSPLAYER MEET-UPS AND EVENTS ...

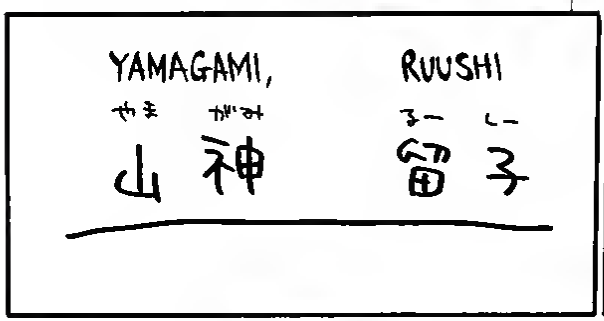


GARBELLA PINK JUMPS THE GUN

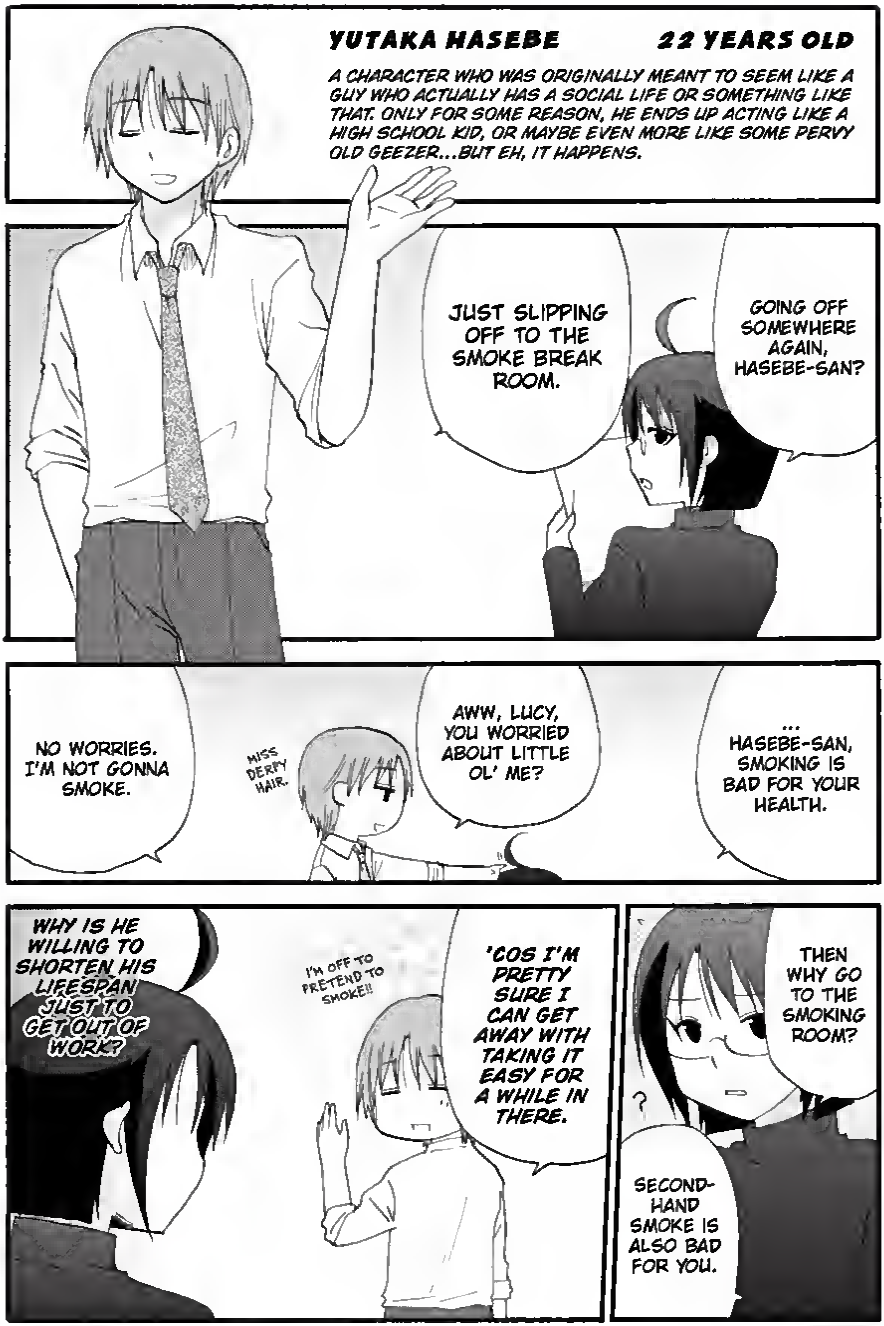


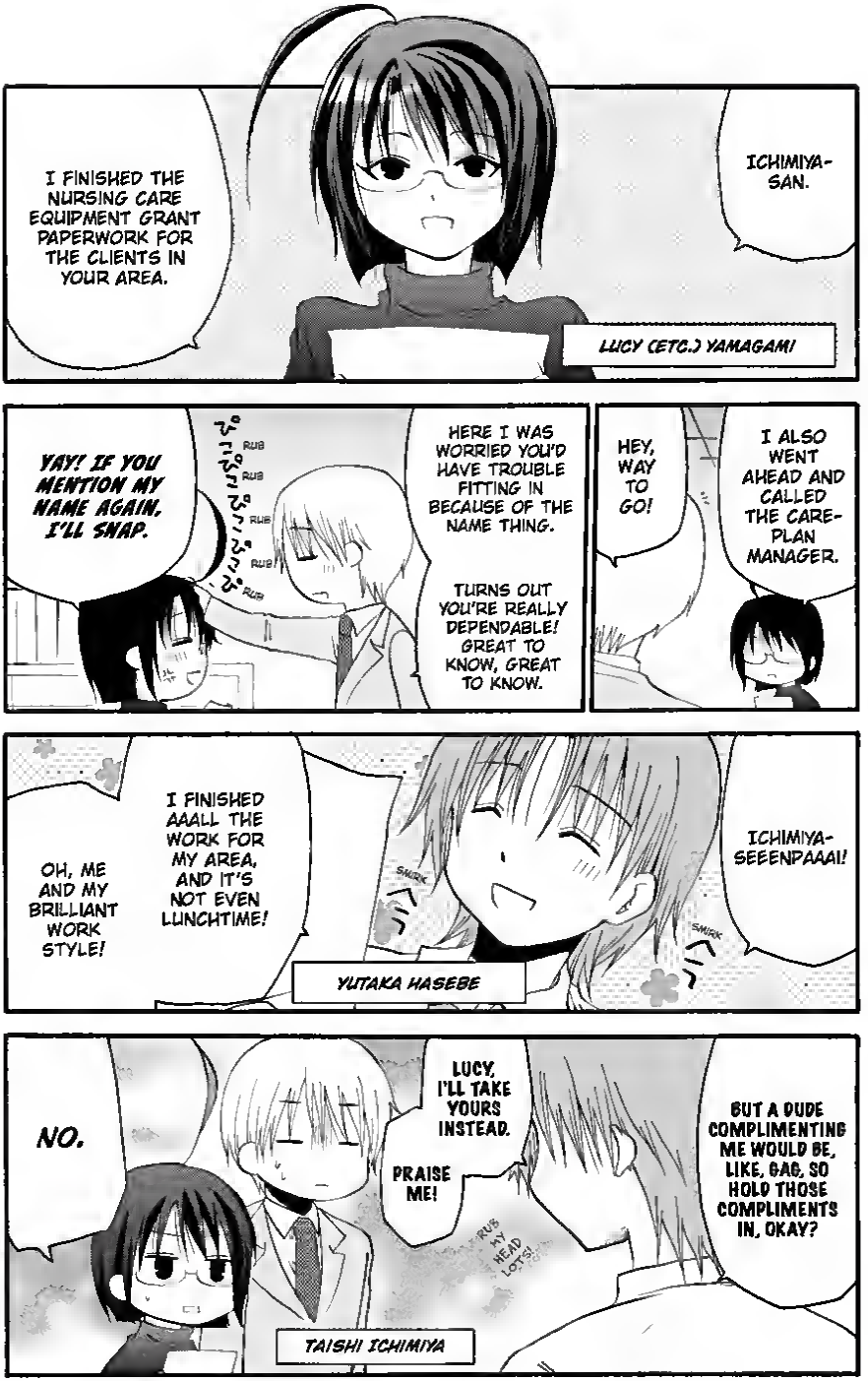
LUCY (ETC.) YAMAGAMI 20 YEARS OLD

OUR MAIN CHARACTER, WHOSE NAME IS AN OPENING GAG. AT FIRST, HER NAME WAS JUST "LUCY," BUT IT GREW LONGER AFTER I TOOK THE JOKE AND RAN WITH IT. SHE'S MEANT TO BE A STRAIGHT-LACED IDIOT, WHAT WITH THE DERPY ANTENNA HAIR AND ALL.

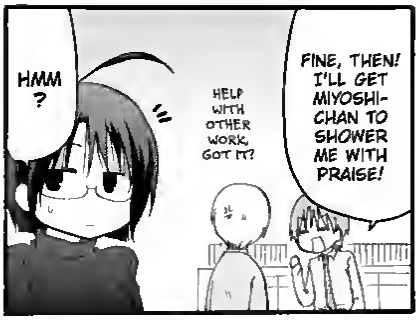


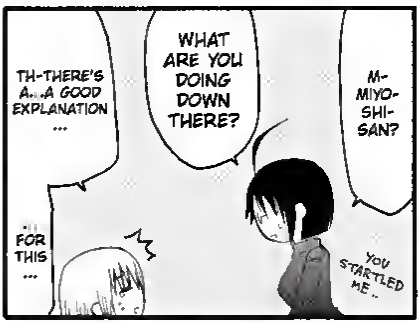
NOT TO INSULT ALL THE LADIES IN OUR NATION WITH THAT NAME, BUT I'M NOT REALLY FEELING THE COOLNESS THERE.
YAMAGAMI
やま かみ
山神
RUUSHI
るー しー
留子
SO SIMPLISTIC AND COOL...

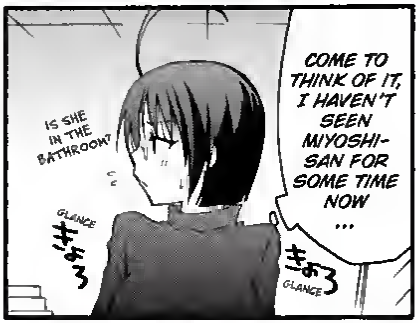

YUTAKA HASEBE 22 YEARS OLD
A CHARACTER WHO WAS ORIGINALLY MEANT TO SEEM LIKE A GUY WHO ACTUALLY HAS A SOCIAL LIFE OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT. ONLY FOR SOME REASON, HE ENDS UP ACTING LIKE A HIGH SCHOOL KID, OR MAYBE EVEN MORE LIKE SOME PERVY OLD GEEZER...BUT EH, IT HAPPENS.
GOING OFF SOMEWHERE AGAIN, HASEBE-SAN?
JUST SLIPPING OFF TO THE SMOKE BREAK ROOM.
...
HASEBE-SAN, SMOKING IS BAD FOR YOUR HEALTH.
AWW, LUCY, YOU WORRIED ABOUT LITTLE OL' ME?
MISS DERPY HAIR.
NO WORRIES. I'M NOT GONNA SMOKE.
THEN WHY GO TO THE SMOKING ROOM?
?
SECOND-HAND SMOKE IS ALSO BAD FOR YOU.
'COS I'M PRETTY SURE I CAN GET AWAY WITH TAKING IT EASY FOR A WHILE IN THERE.
I'M OFF TO PRETEND TO SMOKE!!
WHY IS HE WILLING TO SHORTEN HIS LIFESPAN JUST TO GET OUT OF WORK?

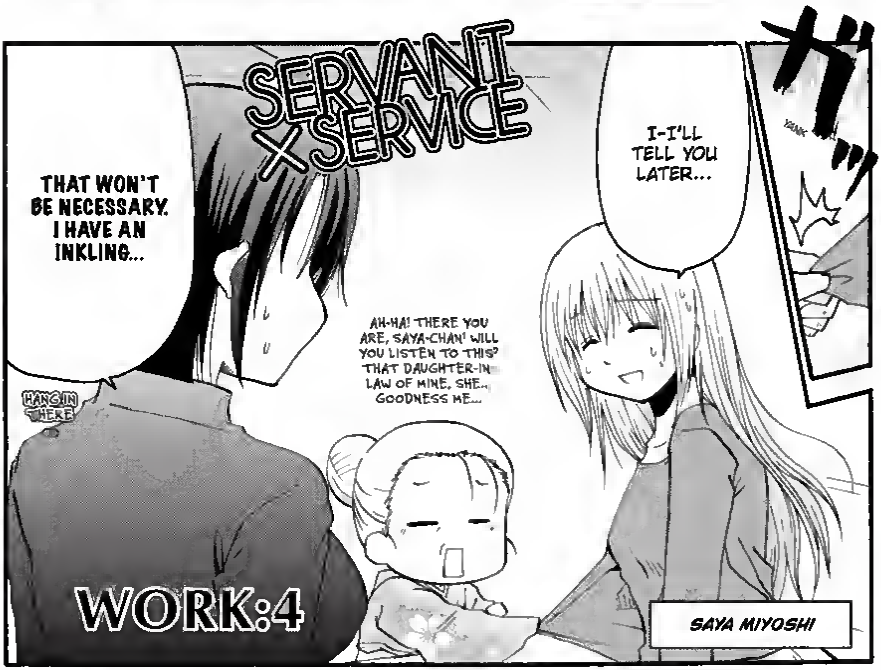

ICHIMIYA-SAN.
I FINISHED THE NURSING CARE EQUIPMENT GRANT PAPERWORK FOR THE CLIENTS IN YOUR AREA.
LUCY (ETC.) YAMAGAMI
I ALSO WENT AHEAD AND CALLED THE CARE-PLAN MANAGER.
HEY, WAY TO GO!
HERE I WAS WORRIED YOU'D HAVE TROUBLE FITTING IN BECAUSE OF THE NAME THING.
TURNS OUT YOU'RE REALLY DEPENDABLE! GREAT TO KNOW, GREAT TO KNOW.
YAY! IF YOU MENTION MY NAME AGAIN, I'LL SNAP.
RUB
ICHIMIYA-SEEENPAAAI!
I FINISHED AAALL THE WORK FOR MY AREA, AND IT'S NOT EVEN LUNCHTIME!
OH, ME AND MY BRILLIANT WORK STYLE!
SMIRK
YUTAKA HASEBE
BUT A DUDE COMPLIMENTING ME WOULD BE, LIKE, GAG, SO HOLD THOSE COMPLIMENTS IN, OKAY?
LUCY, I'LL TAKE YOURS INSTEAD.
PRAISE ME!
RUB MY HEAD LOTS!
NO.
TAISHI ICHIMIYA

JUMP

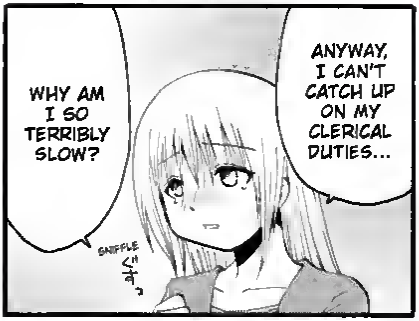

HMM?
HELP WITH OTHER WORK, GOT IT?
FINE, THEN! I'LL GET MIYOSHI-CHAN TO SHOWER ME WITH PRAISE!

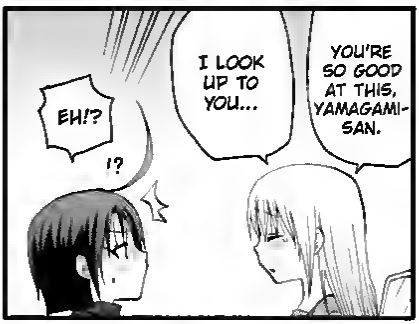

M-MIYOSHI-SAN?
YOU STARTLED ME..
WHAT ARE YOU DOING DOWN THERE?
TH-THERE'S A...A GOOD EXPLANATION ...
...FOR THIS ...

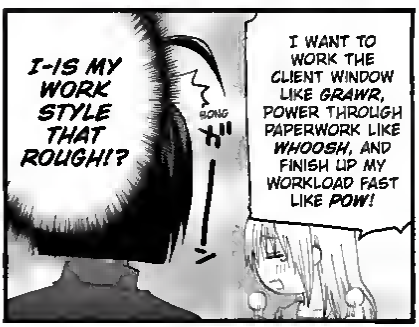

COME TO THINK OF IT, I HAVEN'T SEEN MIYOSHI-SAN FOR SOME TIME NOW ...
IS SHE IN THE BATHROOM?
GLANCE
GLANCE


SERVANT X SERVICE
I-I'LL TELL YOU LATER...
YANK
THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY. I HAVE AN INKLING...
AH-HA! THERE YOU ARE, SAYA-CHAN! WILL YOU LISTEN TO THIS? THAT DAUGHTER-IN-LAW OF MINE, SHE... GOODNESS ME...
HANGIN' THERE!
WORK:4
SAYA MIYOSHI

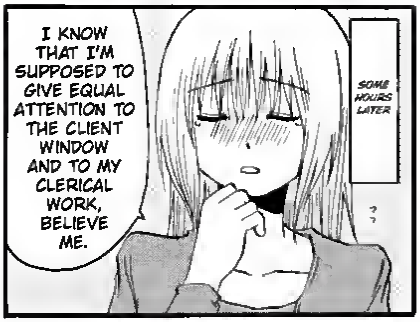
TEXTBOOK WORK STYLE

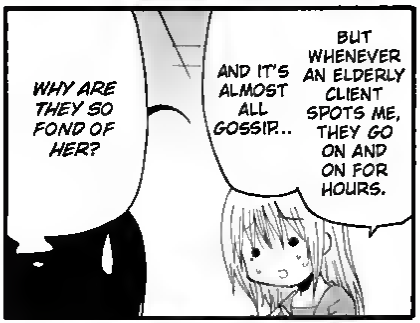


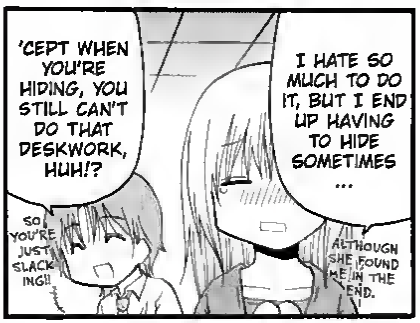


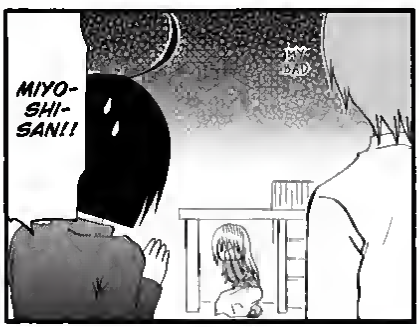

I-IS MY WORK STYLE THAT ROUGH!?
I WANT TO WORK THE CLIENT WINDOW LIKE GRAWR, POWER THROUGH PAPERWORK LIKE WHOOSH, AND FINISH UP MY WORKLOAD FAST LIKE POW!

MIYOSHI'S THROUGHPUT

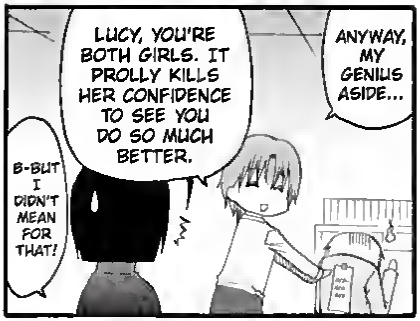


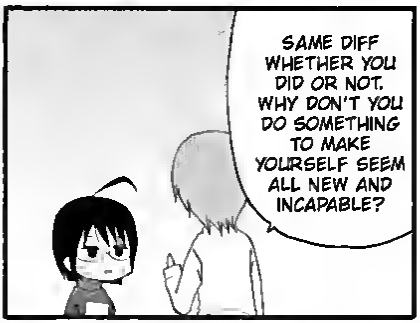


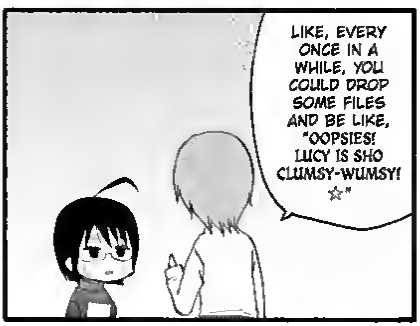

'CEPT WHEN YOU'RE HIDING, YOU STILL CAN'T DO THAT DESKWORK, HUH!?
I HATE SO MUCH TO DO IT, BUT I END UP HAVING TO HIDE SOMETIMES ...
SO YOU'RE JUST SLACKING!!
ALTHOUGH SHE FOUND ME IN THE END.



HASEBE'S TASTE


LUCY, YOU'RE BOTH GIRLS. IT PROLLY KILLS HER CONFIDENCE TO SEE YOU DO SO MUCH BETTER.
ANYWAY, MY GENIUS ASIDE...
B-BUT I DIDN'T MEAN FOR THAT!





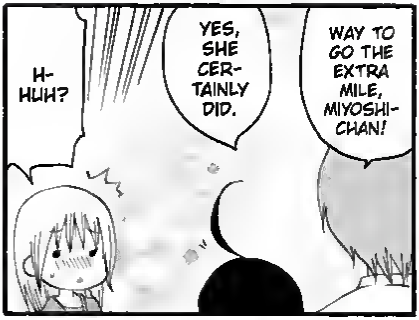
I'D SOONER DIE.
わく BOMP
わく BOMP
THEN YOU TOP IT OFF BY SAYING SOMETHING LIKE, "GOSH, THIS IS TOO MUCH FOR SILLY LITTLE ME. OH, HELP ME, HASEBE-SAMA!"

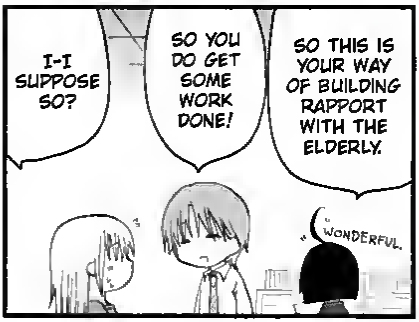
SENPAI'S STANCE

I THINK MIYOSHI-SAN IS PRETTY TYPICAL, FOR A NEW HIRE.
ACTUALLY
U-UH
ICHIMIYA-SAN? MIYOSHI-SAN SEEMS OVERWHELMED.
CHEER HER UP, SENPAI!

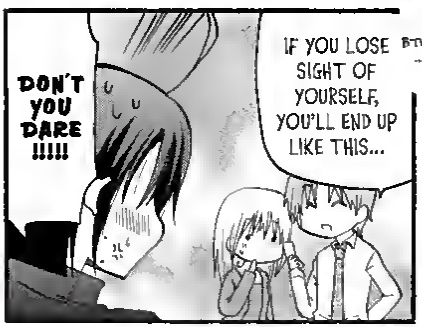
ENCOURAGEMENT
CHALLENGE
...WHEN YOU COULD BE ENCOURAGING MIYOSHI-SAN!
DON'T WASTE TIME TEASING ME...
GOD!!
AH HA-HA HA.
.....
ANYHOW, GIVE IT A TRY.
FLOP
IT'S TO HELP MIYOSHI-CHAN!
ARE YOU, LIKE, HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT WHETHER YOU'RE CUT OUT TO BE A CIVIL SERVANT?
MIYO-SHI-CHAN!
C...
CLUMSY ME...
GOOD THING YOU'RE A CIVIL SERVANT, HUH!?
YOU KNOW, IF YOU LET SOMETHING THIS SMALL BUM YOU OUT, THERE'S NO WAY YOU COULD KEEP A CIVILIAN JOB!
DELETE THAT !!!
DO NOT PHOTO-GRAPH ME!
.....
YOU OWE CIVIL SERVANTS THE WORLD OVER AN APOLOGY!
I'M SORRYYY!
BEFORE I ERASE YOU!!!
ERASE IT!
S'OKAY, THERE'S NO PIC... IT'S A VIDEO.
AH-HA-HA-HA HA

BE YOURSELF

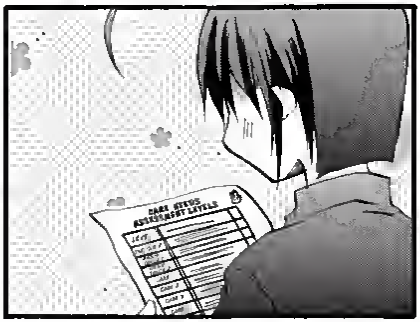


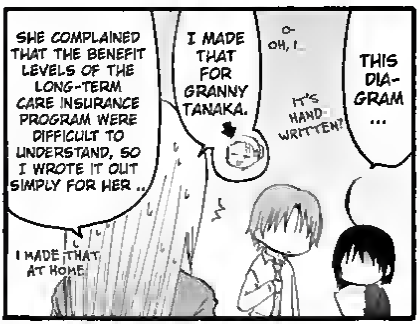


I'M SORRY FOR THIS. I DIDN'T MEAN TO WORRY ANYONE...
YOU'LL LEARN HOW TO CUT THEIR RAMBLING SHORT BEFORE YOU KNOW IT. I PROMISE!
JUST BE YOURSELF
YOU'LL FINISH DESKWORK FASTER AS YOU GET USED TO IT TOO.



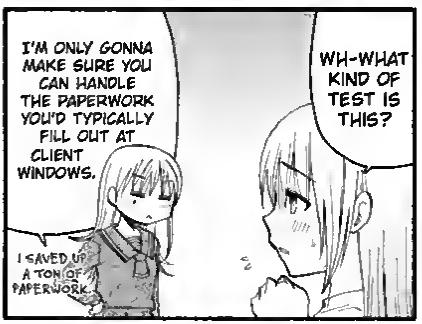
THE SECRET OF HER POPULARITY

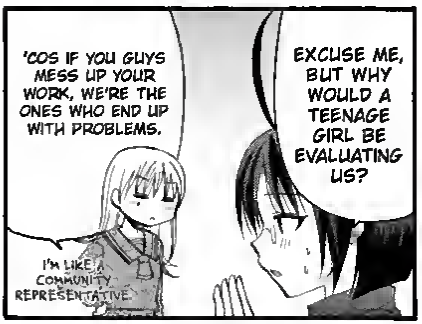



SHE COMPLAINED THAT THE BENEFIT LEVELS OF THE LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE PROGRAM WERE DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND, SO I WROTE IT OUT SIMPLY FOR HER...
I MADE THAT AT HOME.
I MADE THAT FOR GRANNY TANAKA.
O-OH, I...
IT'S HAND-WRITTEN?
THIS DIAGRAM...

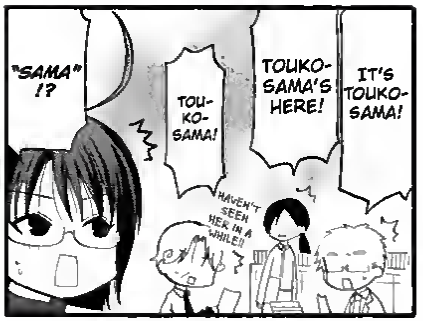
SERVANT × SERVICE
WORK:5
WHEN YOU'RE A CIVIL SER-VANT !!!!
YOU JUST CALLED A LAW-ABIDING MEMBER OF THE CIVIL "TROUBLE" !!!!
A TEEN-AGER!
A-A TEEN'S HERE!
A TEENAGE G!!!!RL !!!!
H-HUH?
N-NO, I—
BUT YOU GAVE ME ZERO NOTICE!
HUH? WAIT, HOLD O—
AH HA-HA HA-HA.
... ON THE WAY ...
GETTIN' YELLED AT, SENPAI? THOSE MEAN CIVVIES CHEWIN' YOU OUT?
WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT ?
?
TROUBLE IS ON ITS WAY...
PREPARE YOURSELVES ...
FLINCH
TROUBLE?

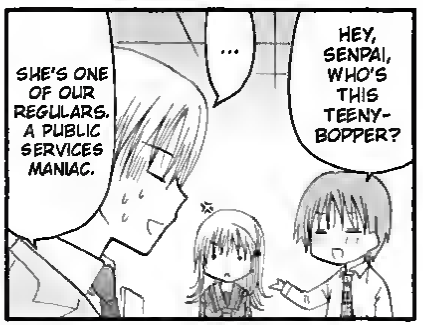
TOUKO'S TEST

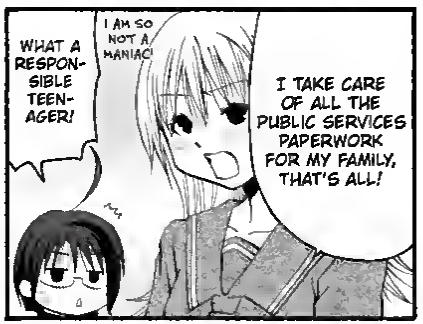

I'M ONLY GONNA MAKE SURE YOU CAN HANDLE THE PAPERWORK YOU'D TYPICALLY FILL OUT AT CLIENT WINDOWS.
I SAVED UP A TON OF PAPERWORK.
WH-WHAT KIND OF TEST IS THIS?


'COS IF YOU GUYS MESS UP YOUR WORK, WE'RE THE ONES WHO END UP WITH PROBLEMS.
I'M LIKE A COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE.
EXCUSE ME, BUT WHY WOULD A TEENAGE GIRL BE EVALUATING US?

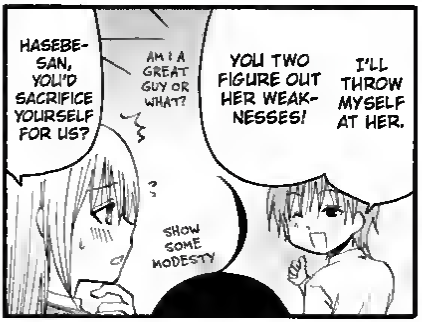
THE INFAMOUS GIRL

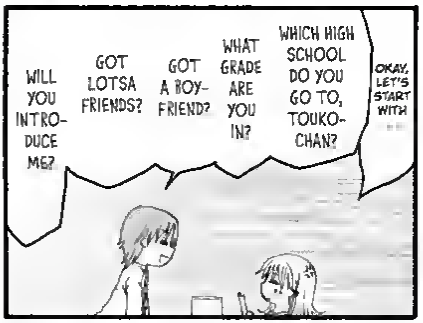




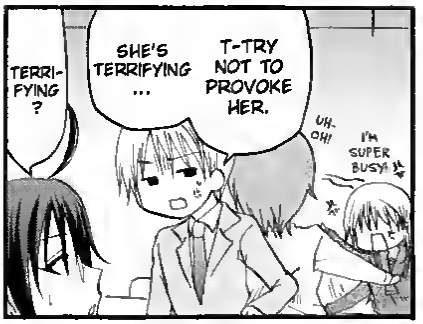


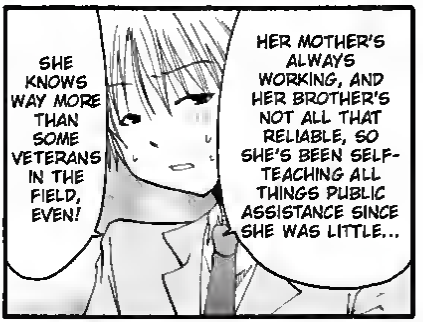
HIS BEST EFFORT

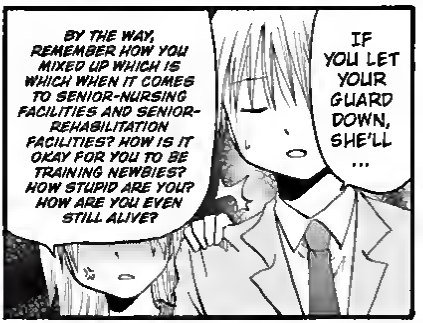

HASEBE-SAN, YOU'D SACRIFICE YOURSELF FOR US?
AM I A GREAT GUY OR WHAT?
SHOW SOME MODESTY
YOU TWO FIGURE OUT HER WEAK-NESSES!
I'LL THROW MYSELF AT HER.


WILL YOU INTRO-DUCE ME?
GOT LOTSA FRIENDS?
GOT A BOY-FRIEND?
WHAT GRADE ARE YOU IN?
WHICH HIGH SCHOOL DO YOU GO TO, TOUKO-CHAN?
OKAY, LET'S START WITH

THE TERROR OF TOUKO




SHE KNOWS WAY MORE THAN SOME VETERANS IN THE FIELD, EVEN!
HER MOTHER'S ALWAYS WORKING, AND HER BROTHER'S NOT ALL THAT RELIABLE, SO SHE'S BEEN SELF-TEACHING ALL THINGS PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SINCE SHE WAS LITTLE...


BY THE WAY, REMEMBER HOW YOU MIXED UP WHICH IS WHICH WHEN IT COMES TO SENIOR-NURSING FACILITIES AND SENIOR-REHABILITATION FACILITIES? HOW IS IT OKAY FOR YOU TO BE TRAINING NEWBIES? HOW STUPID ARE YOU? HOW ARE YOU EVEN STILL ALIVE?
IF YOU LET YOUR GUARD DOWN, SHE'LL ...

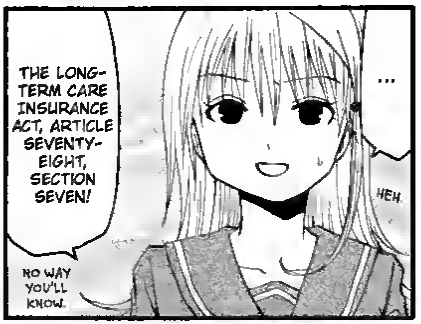
STAY STRONG, ICHIMIYA-SAN!
UGH, AND THE WAY YOU CRACK OVER NOTHING! YOU'RE HOPELESS!
SHE'LL DO LIKE THIS AND TEAR YOU INTO LITTLE PIECES, SO BE VERY, VERY CAREFUL...

MIYOSHI'S CHALLENGE

GOODNESS GRACIOUS! DIDN'T ANYONE EVER TEACH YOU MANNERS? AND THAT SHORT SKIRT! WHAT WILL YOU DO IF YOUR TUMMY GETS TOO COLD? MY DAUGHTER-IN-LAW DIDN'T KEEP HER TUMMY WARM, AND NOW...
UM ...
PLEASE DON'T YELL AT HER TOO MUCH...

HASEBE'S CHALLENGE

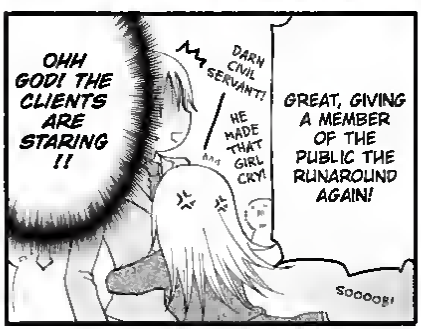
OKAY, IF I ANSWER YOUR QUESTION RIGHT, YOU HAVE TO GIVE ME YOUR E-MAIL!
EXCUSE ME!?
WHY SHOULD I?
SHIVER SHIVER
...FINE, WHATEVER. BUT DON'T EXPECT ANY MERCY WHEN YOU COME UP EMPTY!



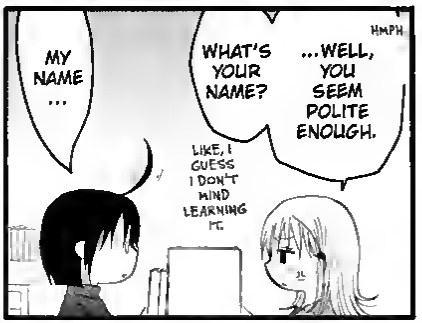
A SERVICE PROVIDER DESIGNATED AS CARE PROVIDER FOR RESIDENTS OF COMMUNITY-BASED PUBLIC NURSING CARE FACILITIES, AS PRESCRIBED IN THE MAIN CLAUSE OF ARTICLE 42-2, PARAGRAPH ONE, MAY DECLINE SAID DESIGNATION WITH AT LEAST ONE MONTH'S PRIOR NOTICE.

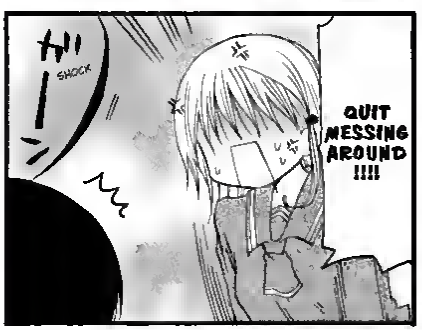
THE LIMIT OF PATIENCE

TH-THIS YEAR'S BATCH IS SORT OF AN EXCEPTION TO THE RULE...
YOU'D BETTER TRAIN THEM RIGHT!
WHAT IS WRONG WITH THIS YEAR'S BATCH!? ONE HIT ON ME, ONE SUMMONED SOME OLD LADY, AND ONE HAS A GAG FOR A NAME!

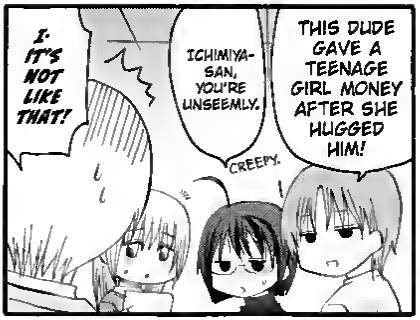

OHH GOD! THE CLIENTS ARE STARING !!
DARN CIVIL SERVANT!
HE MADE THAT GIRL CRY!
GREAT, GIVING A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC THE RUNAROUND AGAIN!
SOOOOO!

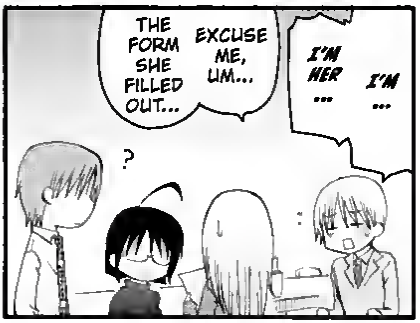
YAMAGAMI'S CHALLENGE

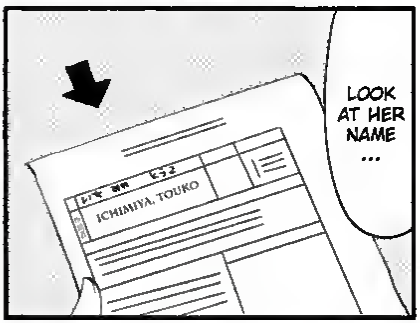




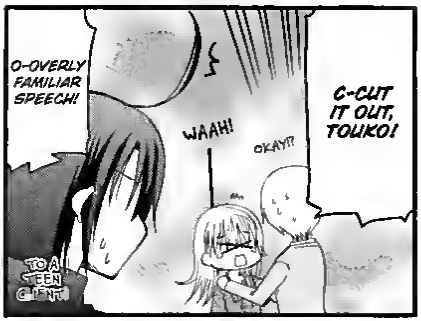
HIM & HER

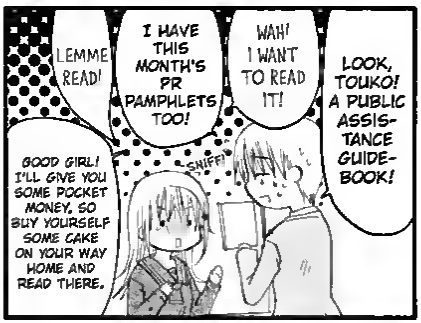


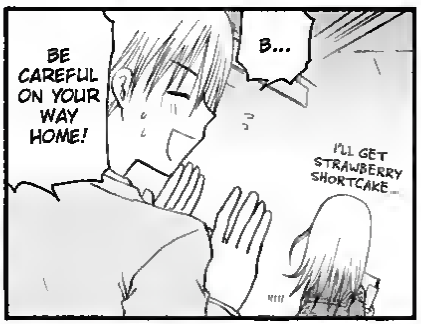


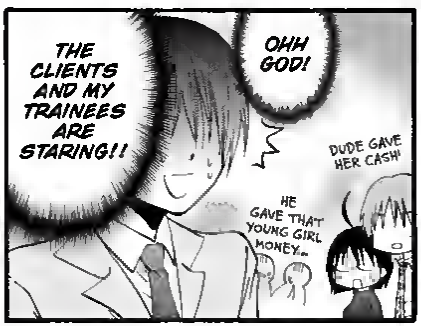


DANGEROUSLY CLOSE

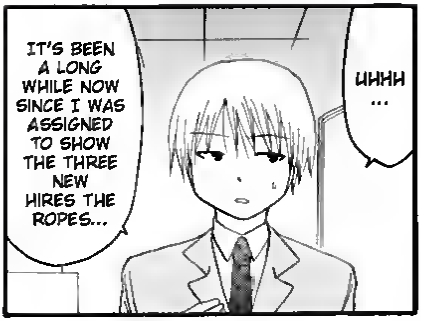


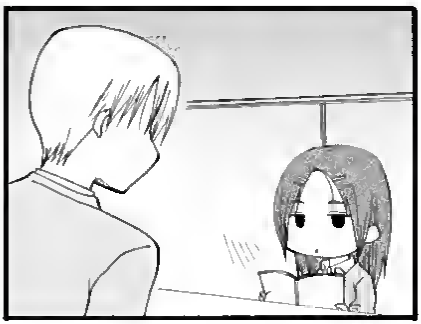

LEMME READ!
I HAVE THIS MONTH'S PR PAMPHLETS TOO!
WAH! I WANT TO READ IT!
LOOK, TOUKO! A PUBLIC ASSIS-TANCE GUIDE-BOOK!
GOOD GIRL! I'LL GIVE YOU SOME POCKET MONEY, SO BUY YOURSELF SOME CAKE ON YOUR WAY HOME AND READ THERE.
SNIFF!

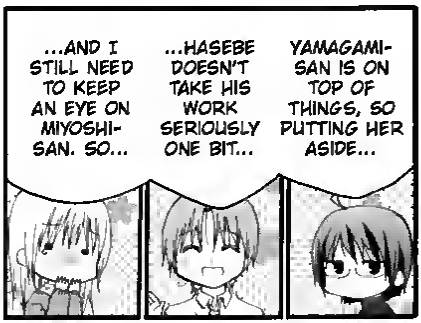


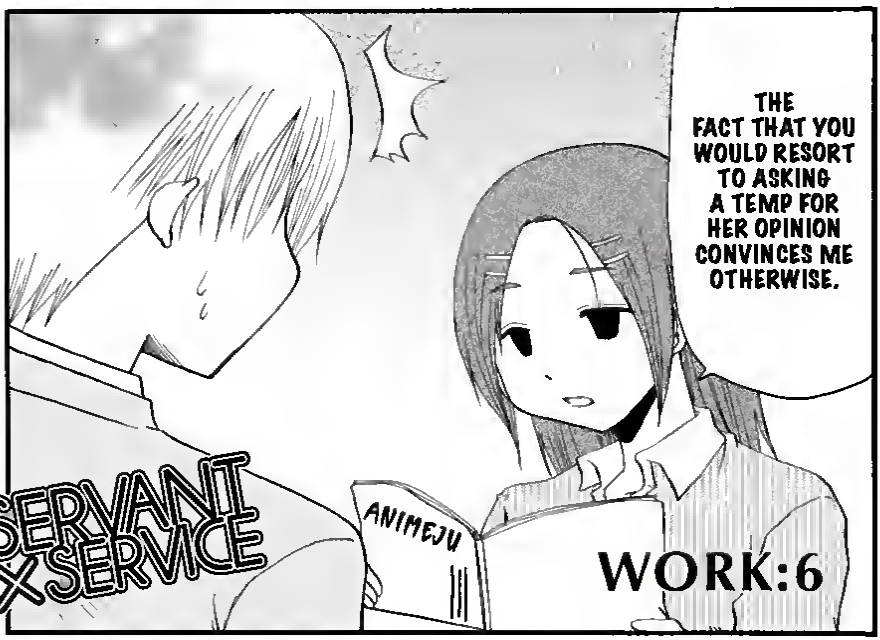


...BEEN ACTING LIKE A PROPER SENPAI?
...HAVE I...


IT'S BEEN A LONG WHILE NOW SINCE I WAS ASSIGNED TO SHOW THE THREE NEW HIRES THE ROPES...
UHHH...

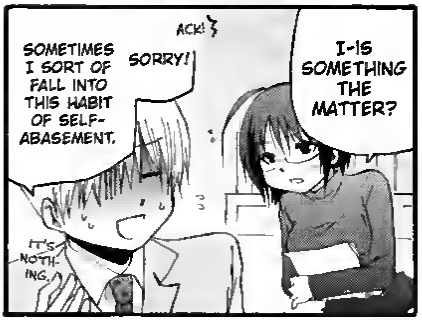



...AND I STILL NEED TO KEEP AN EYE ON MIYOSHI-SAN. SO...
...HASEBE DOESN'T TAKE HIS WORK SERIOUSLY ONE BIT...
YAMAGAMI-SAN IS ON TOP OF THINGS, SO PUTTING HER ASIDE...

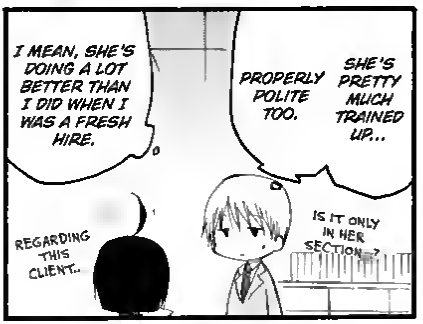

THE FACT THAT YOU WOULD RESORT TO ASKING A TEMP FOR HER OPINION CONVINCES ME OTHERWISE.
ANIMEJU
SERVANT X SERVICE
WORK:6

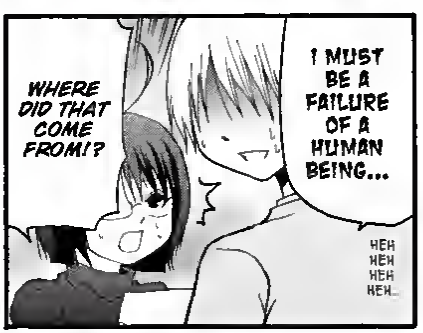
THE THING TO WATCH OUT FOR
I RECOMMEND IT TO BEGINNERS TO THE GENRE!
OOH!
HERE'S THAT LIGHT NOVEL I SAID I WOULD LEND YOU.
...FOR EXAMPLE... YAMAGAMI-SAN IS APPARENTLY A BOOKWORM.
OH, BUT...
I'D BEEN WANTING TO READ THESE!
LET ME PAY YOU BACK SOMEHOW, OKAY?
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
...I'LL FIND A CHARACTER THAT SUITS YOU AND MAKE YOU COSPLAY!
OH, BUT IF YOU OFFER THAT...
MORE LIKE SOMEONE NEEDS TO KEEP AN EYE ON YOU...
SHE'S OBLIVIOUS TO SUCH POSSIBILITIES, SO SOMEONE NEEDS TO KEEP AN EYE ON HER.
WATCH, AND...
REALLY?
...AS SOMEONE WHO WORKS IN HER SECTION, I THINK YAMAGAMI-SAN ALSO NEEDS TO HAVE AN EYE KEPT ON HER...
PUTTING ASIDE YOUR SENPAI-NESS
WATCH, AND YOU SHALL SEE...
YOU THINK? SHE SEEMS SO ON TOP OF THINGS TO ME.
...AH.
LUNCH, LUNCH
WATCH, AND I SHALL SEE...
I DON'T MEAN ANY PART OF HER LOOKS.
IT'S NOT BED-HEAD.
THAT BED-HEAD DRIVES ME NUTS...

ICHIMIYA'S HABIT

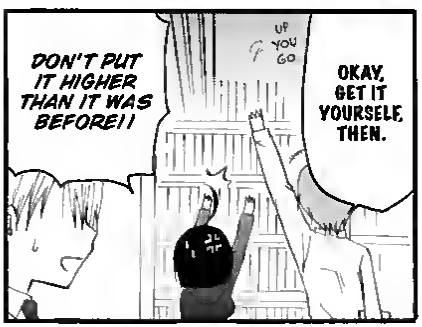


FAILURE?


I MEAN, SHE'S DOING A LOT BETTER THAN I DID WHEN I WAS A FRESH HIRE.
PROPERLY POLITE TOO.
SHE'S PRETTY MUCH TRAINED UP...
REGARDING THIS CLIENT..
IS IT ONLY IN HER SECTION...?

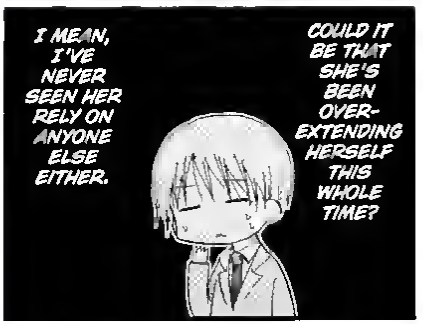


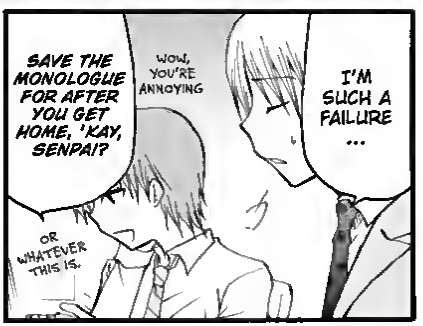
STUBBORN TO THE BITTER END



YUP, A FAILURE

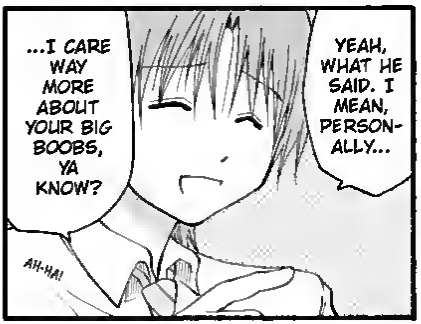
MAYBE I NEVER REALLY PAID ATTENTION TO YAMAGAMI-SAN.
...NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT I'VE BEEN PREOCCUPIED WITH HASEBE'S ANNOYINGNESS AND MIYOSHI-SAN'S INSECURITY.

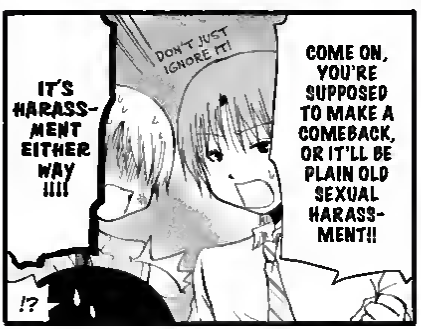




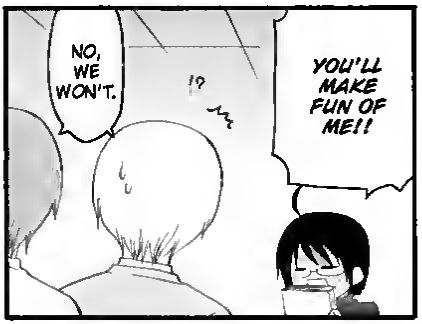
DON'T CARE?

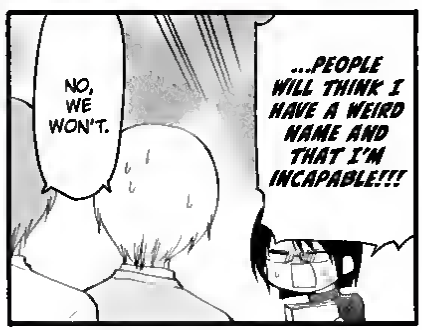
NO ONE HERE CARES THAT MUCH ABOUT YOUR NAME!
WE WON'T!
WHEN'D YOU COME UP WITH THAT? LIKE IN PRIMARY SCHOOL?
THEY ABSOLUTELY WILL THINK SO!!
I-I THINK SO!




IT'S HARASSMENT EITHER WAY !!!!
DON'T JUST IGNORE IT!
COME ON, YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO MAKE A COMEBACK, OR IT'LL BE PLAIN OLD SEXUAL HARASSMENT!!
!?

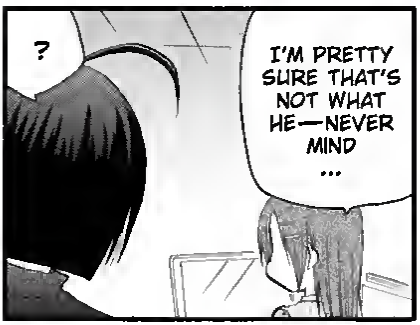
THE NEVER-ENDING STRUGGLE



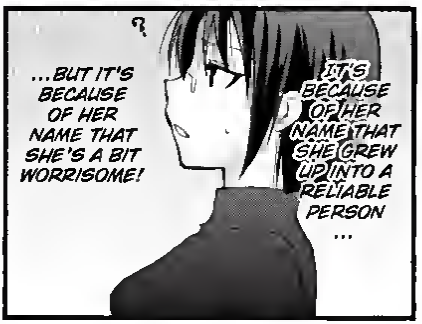


MISS INEXPERIENCED

ESPECIALLY AROUND HIS TYPE.
AWW, GEEZ. I WON'T SAY ANYTHING
TRY TO BE AWARE.
...HANG IN THERE, OKAY?
A-ANYWAY, I'M NOT SURE HOW BEST TO PUT THIS TO YOU, BUT, YAMAGAMI-SAN...

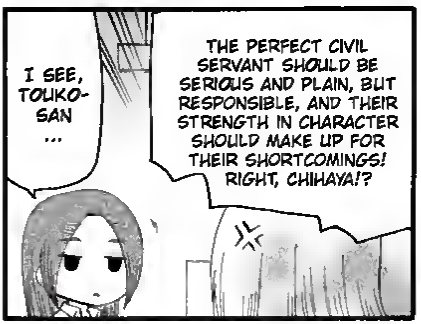


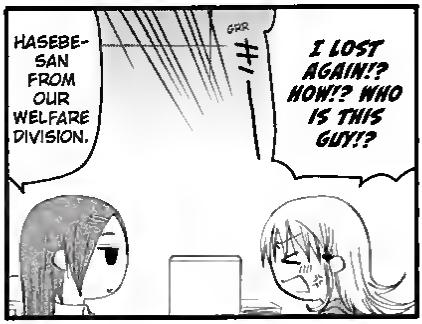
IMPORTANCE OF A NAME



IT JUST PISSES ME OFF THAT HE'S SO... SO LAID-BACK!! THAT'S NOT HOW A CIVIL SERVANT SHOULD BE!!
I KNOW THAT!
HE KNOWS HIS STUFF. I'LL GIVE HIM THAT MUCH.

ADIOS!
WELP, LOOKS LIKE I WIN WELFARE JEOPARDY AGAIN!
UNTIL WE PLAY AGAIN, TOUKO-CHAN!

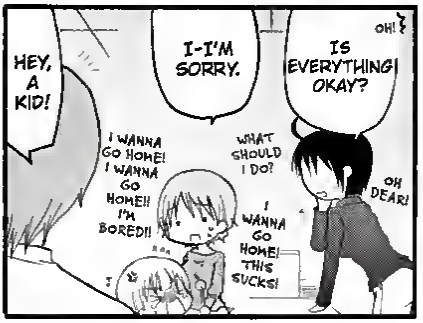

I SEE, TOUKO-SAN ...
THE PERFECT CIVIL SERVANT SHOULD BE SERIOUS AND PLAIN, BUT RESPONSIBLE, AND THEIR STRENGTH IN CHARACTER SHOULD MAKE UP FOR THEIR SHORTCOMINGS! RIGHT, CHIHAYA!?

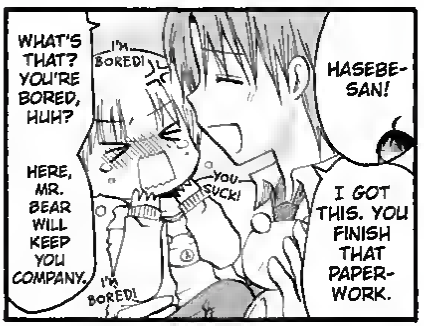

HASEBE-SAN FROM OUR WELFARE DIVISION.
GRR
I LOST AGAIN!? HOW!? WHO IS THIS GUY!?

SERVANT X SERVICE
DON'T BE DUMB!
WE WEREN'T TALKING ABOUT MY STUPID BRO, WE WERE TALKING ABOUT HASEBE!!!
SO YOUR IDEAL PERSON WOULD BE SOMEONE LIKE ICHIMIYA-SAN...
YOU TWO SEEM CLOSE ...
SLAM ばん
SLAM ばん
WORK:7

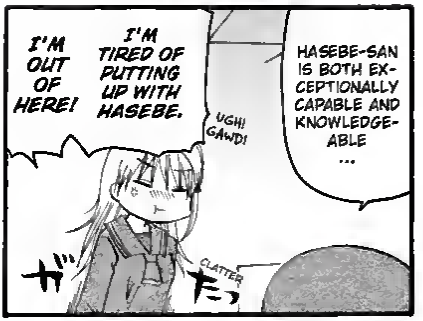
JACK-OF-ALL-TRADES

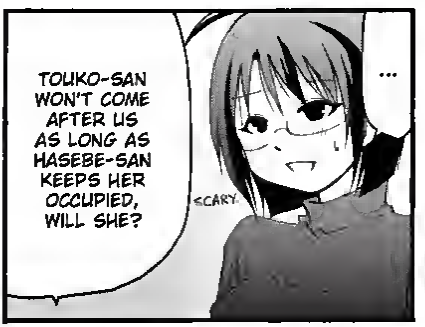
TOUKO-SAN MUST GET FRUSTRATED BECAUSE HASEBE-SAN IS SO TALENTED... YET SO EASYGOING.
PLEASE FILL THIS OUT
JUST A LITTLE LONGER, DEAR
NO!! I'M BORED!! I WANNA GO HOME!!
BWAHH!

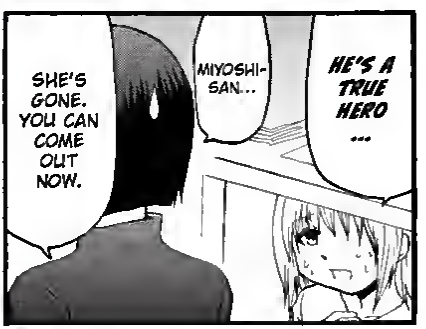




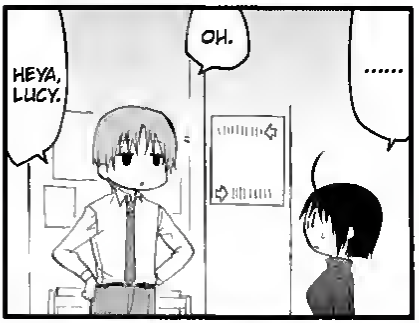
DESTROY HASEBE

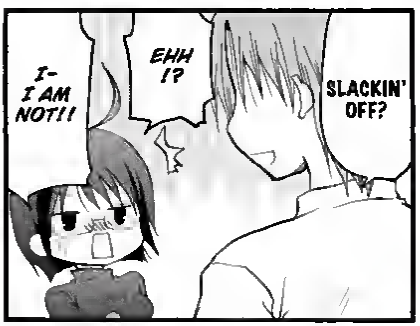

I'M OUT OF HERE!
I'M TIRED OF PUTTING UP WITH HASEBE.
UGH! GAWD!
HASEBE-SAN IS BOTH EXCEPTIONALLY CAPABLE AND KNOWLEDGEABLE ...
CLATTER



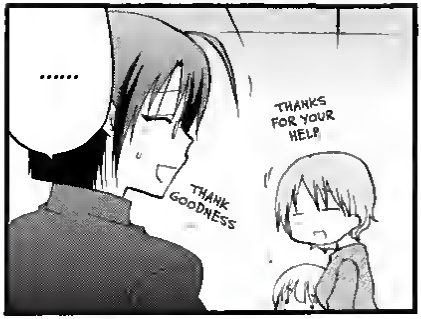


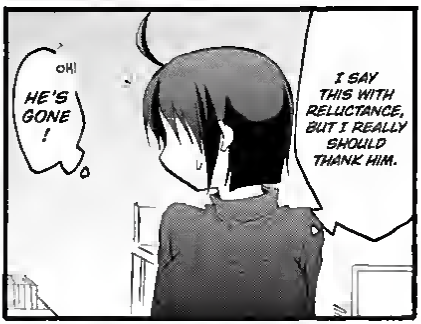
JACK-OF-ALL-TRADES



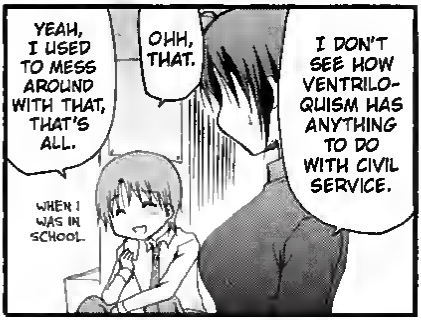


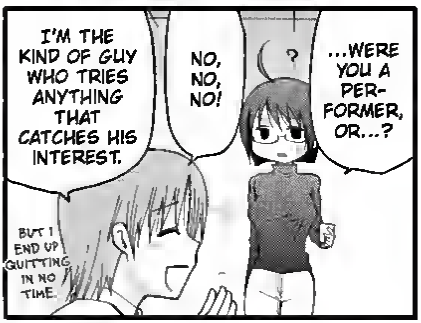
GIVING THANKS

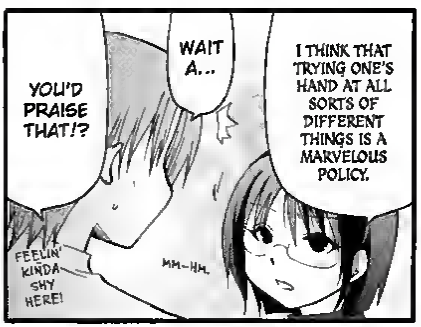




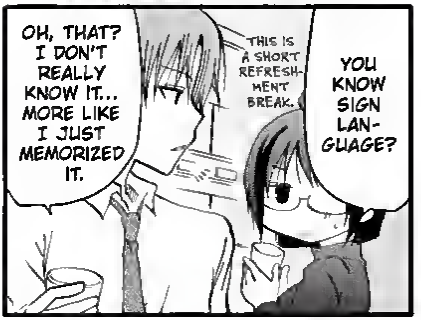
TRIED ALL THE THINGS

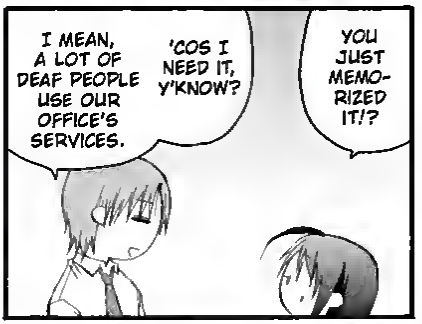

YEAH, I USED TO MESS AROUND WITH THAT, THAT'S ALL.
OHH, THAT.
I DON'T SEE HOW VENTRILOQUISM HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH CIVIL SERVICE.
WHEN I WAS IN SCHOOL.


I'M THE KIND OF GUY WHO TRIES ANYTHING THAT CATCHES HIS INTEREST.
NO, NO, NO!
?
...WERE YOU A PERFORMER, OR...?
BUT I END UP QUITTING IN NO TIME.

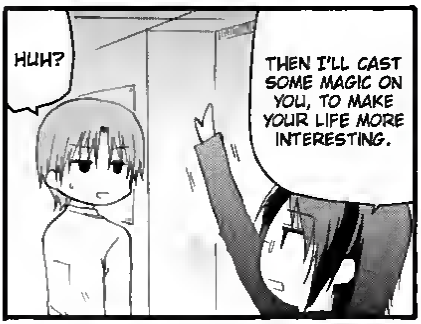

YOU'D PRAISE THAT!?
WAIT A...
I THINK THAT TRYING ONE'S HAND AT ALL SORTS OF DIFFERENT THINGS IS A MARVELOUS POLICY.
FEELIN' KINDA SHY HERE!
MM-HM.

BANG FOR THEIR TAXES

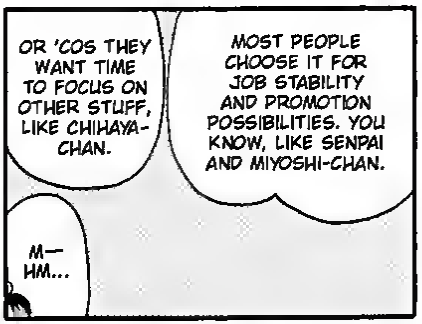


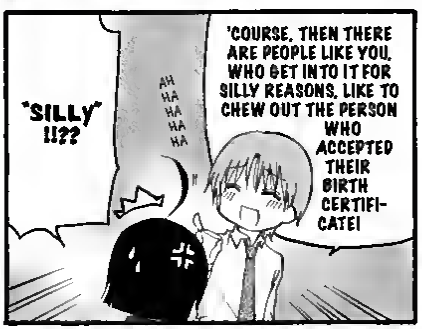


MAGIC



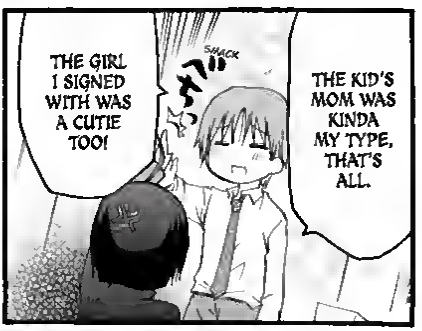
THE PATH TO CIVIL SERVITUDE


OR 'COS THEY WANT TIME TO FOCUS ON OTHER STUFF, LIKE CHIHAYA-CHAN.
MOST PEOPLE CHOOSE IT FOR JOB STABILITY AND PROMOTION POSSIBILITIES. YOU KNOW, LIKE SENPAI AND MIYOSHI-CHAN.
M— HM...


"SILLY" !!??
AH HA HA HA HA
'COURSE, THEN THERE ARE PEOPLE LIKE YOU, WHO GET INTO IT FOR SILLY REASONS, LIKE TO CHEW OUT THE PERSON WHO ACCEPTED THEIR BIRTH CERTIFI-CATE!

THE "CURSE" IN EFFECT?

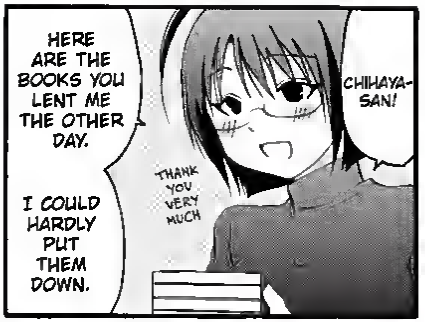
HIS MOTIVES

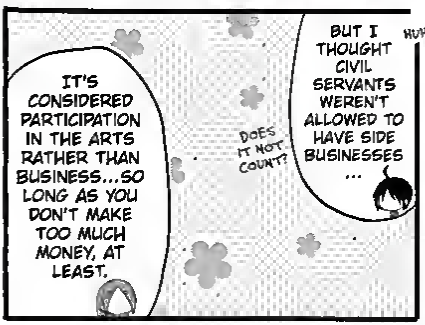


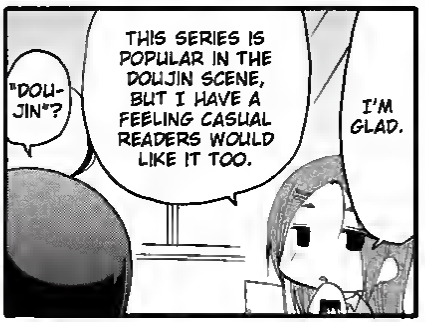
SAYA MIYOSHI 24 YEARS OLD
MIYOSHI-SAN, FAVORITE OF THE ELDERLY AND HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS. HER OUTFITS ARE THE EASIEST TO DRAW. IT FEELS LIKE SHE HARDLY GOT ANY SCREEN TIME IN THE FIRST HALF, SO I NEED HER TO WORK HARD IN NEXT HALF.
AN OLDER CLIENT ASKED ME FOR DIRECTIONS AGAIN...
OH, UM...
WHAT'S THE MATTER, MIYOSHI-SAN?
ACTUALLY, I KEEP COPIES OF A LOCAL MAP ON HAND. WOULD YOU LIKE ONE?
YES, FOR SOME REASON, PEOPLE ASSUME THAT BECAUSE WE WORK HERE, WE'RE KNOWLEDGEABLE AROUND HERE.
OH.
?
AT LEAST I MANAGED TO HELP THIS TIME...
I DON'T ACTUALLY LIVE IN THE AREA, SO I'M ALWAYS AT A LOSS...
だっ
DASH
I HAVE TO CHASE THEM DOWN!!
I SENT THEM IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION !!

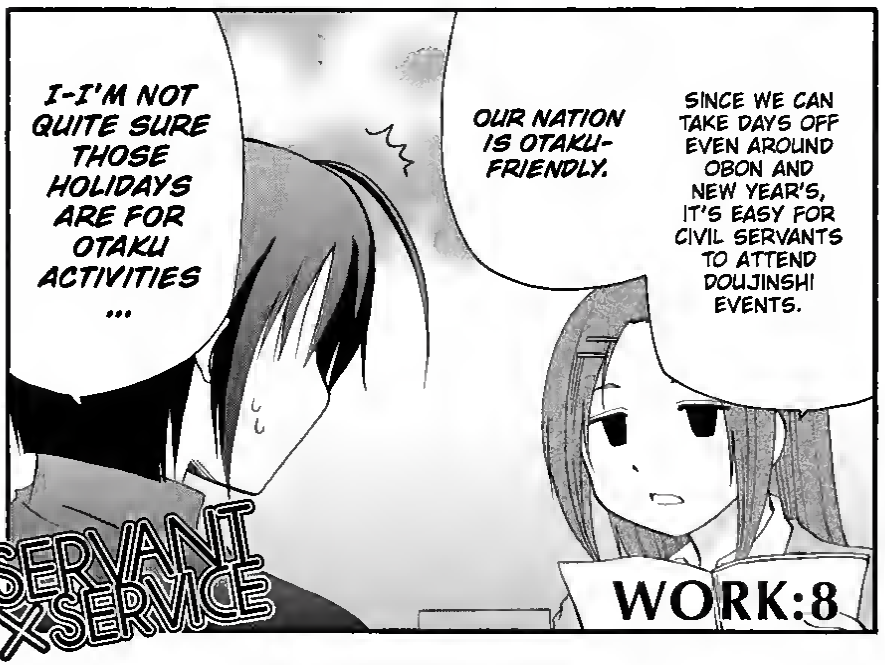
MEGUMI CHIHAYA 20 YEARS OLD
A COSPLAYER. ACTUALLY, I KNEW A COSPLAYER AT THE OFFICE WHERE I WORKED, BUT THAT PERSON HAD A DIFFERENT PERSONALITY. THANK GOD. I HOPE SHE CAN GATHER THE FULL GROUP OF MAGICAL YOU-KNOW-WHOS ONE DAY.
ONE DAY, I'LL HAVE YAMAGAMI-SAN COSPLAY.
SO I'VE BEEN TAKING HER MEASURE-MENTS IN PREPARATION, CASUALLY.
HIPS
ARE YOU QUITE ALL RIGHT?
OOPS, I SLIPPED.
WAIST
ARE YOU QUITE ALL RIGHT?
OOPS, I SLIPPED.
HER GUARD IS SO LOW THAT BOTHERING TO THINK UP A RUSE FEELS SILLY, SO FOR THE BUST, PERHAPS I'LL JUST GROPE HER HEAD ON.
YAMAGAMI-SAN, RUN AWAY! AND COME ON, BE MORE AWARE!!

A LOT OF CIVIL SERVANTS MAKE DOUJINSHI.
MORE OR LESS, YES.
THAT'S WHEN YOU MAKE AND SELL YOUR OWN BOOKS, ISN'T IT?
I'VE SEEN THAT ON TV.

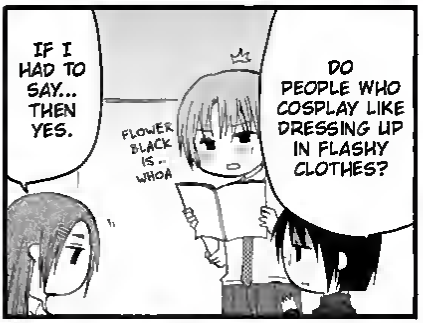

HERE ARE THE BOOKS YOU LENT ME THE OTHER DAY.
I COULD HARDLY PUT THEM DOWN.
CHIHAYA-SAN!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH

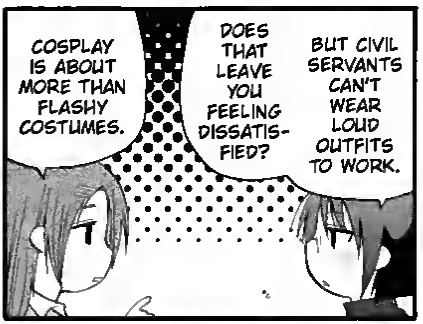

IT'S CONSIDERED PARTICIPATION IN THE ARTS RATHER THAN BUSINESS...SO LONG AS YOU DON'T MAKE TOO MUCH MONEY, AT LEAST.
DOES IT NOT COUNT?
BUT I THOUGHT CIVIL SERVANTS WEREN'T ALLOWED TO HAVE SIDE BUSINESSES ...
HUH?

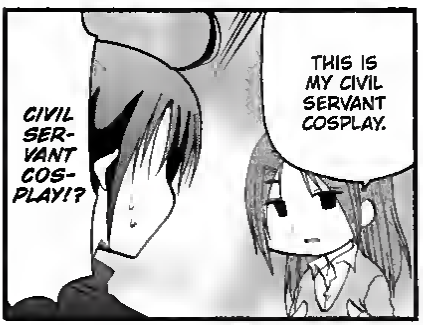

"DOU-JIN"?
THIS SERIES IS POPULAR IN THE DOUJIN SCENE, BUT I HAVE A FEELING CASUAL READERS WOULD LIKE IT TOO.
I'M GLAD.


I-I'M NOT QUITE SURE THOSE HOLIDAYS ARE FOR OTAKU ACTIVITIES ...
OUR NATION IS OTAKU-FRIENDLY.
SINCE WE CAN TAKE DAYS OFF EVEN AROUND OBON AND NEW YEAR'S, IT'S EASY FOR CIVIL SERVANTS TO ATTEND DOUJINSHI EVENTS.
SERVANT X SERVICE
WORK:8

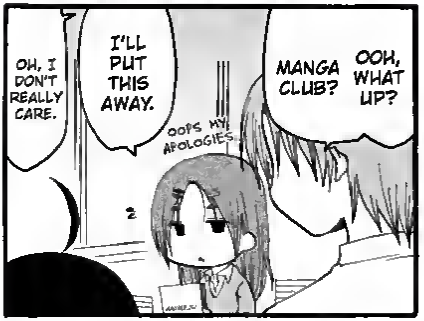
THE RULE OF COSPLAY

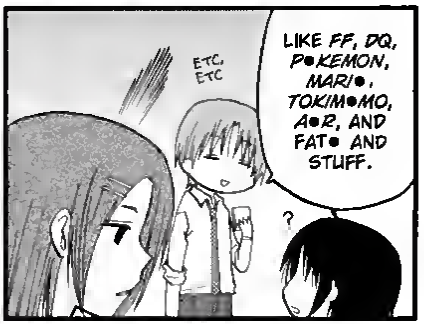



COSPLAY IS ABOUT MORE THAN FLASHY COSTUMES.
DOES THAT LEAVE YOU FEELING DISSATISFIED?
BUT CIVIL SERVANTS CAN'T WEAR LOUD OUTFITS TO WORK.

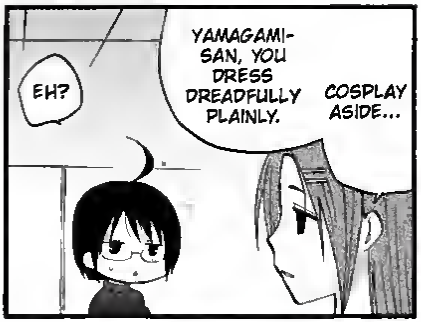


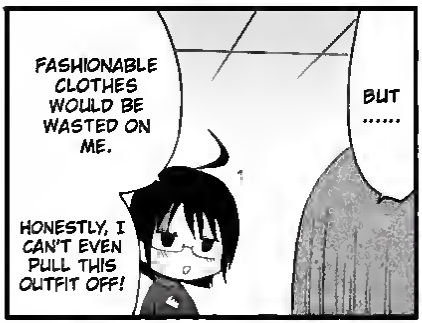
A CONNOISSEUR WOULD KNOW

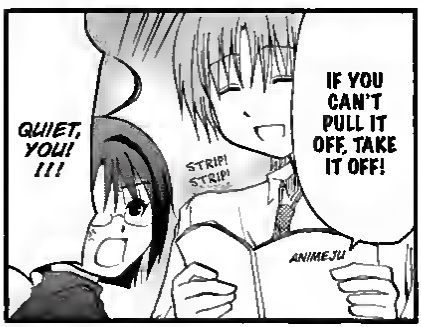




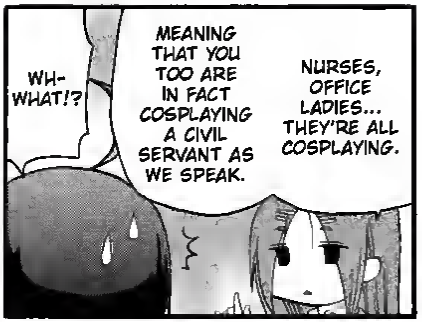
WHAT A WASTE

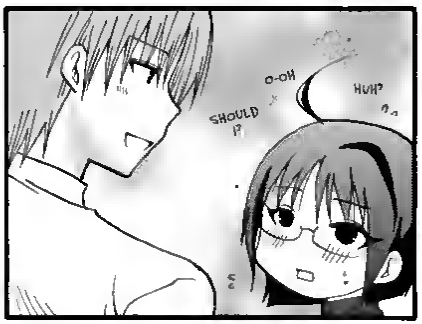




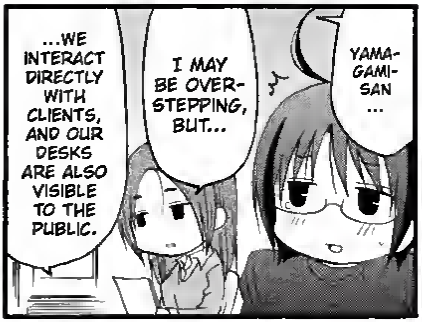


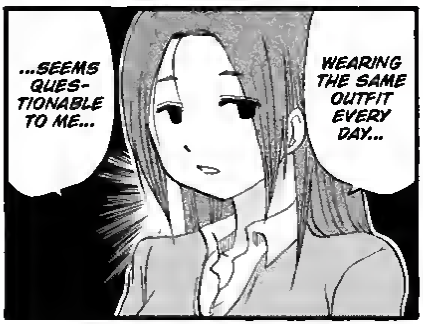
SHAMELESS


WH-WHAT!?
MEANING THAT YOU TOO ARE IN FACT COSPLAYING A CIVIL SERVANT AS WE SPEAK.
NURSES, OFFICE LADIES... THEY'RE ALL COSPLAYING.



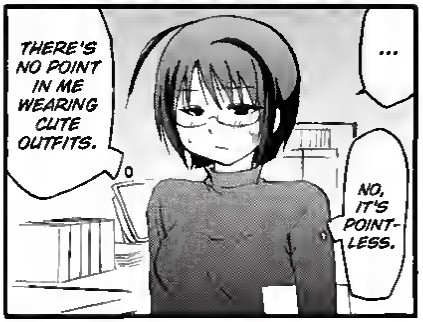
EXCUSEMATE

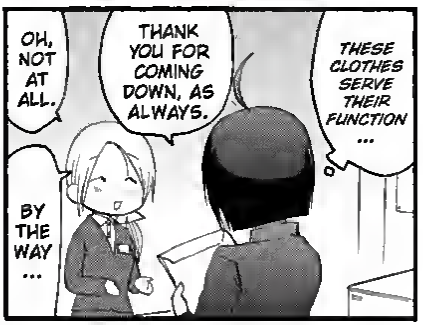


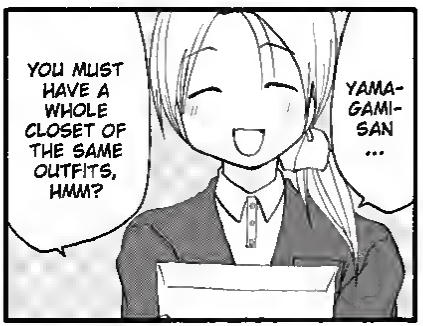


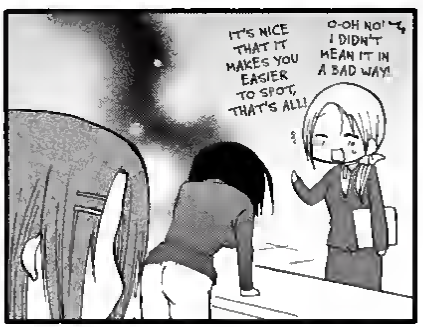
THAT TOO SEEMS QUES-TIONABLE TO ME...
THEY'RE FROM COMPLETELY DIFFERENT STORES AND NOT EVEN THE SAME MATERIAL!
I-I JUST ALWAYS END UP BUYING THE SAME STYLE!

DESPITE TURNING A BLIND EYE

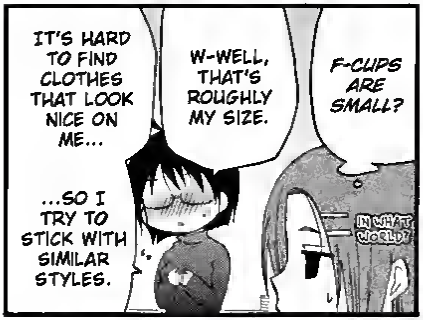


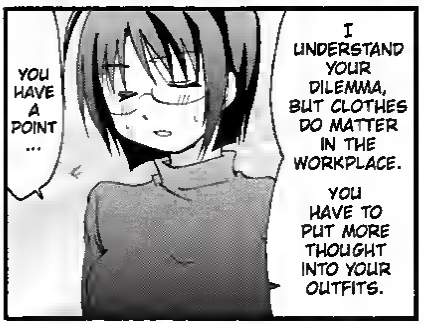


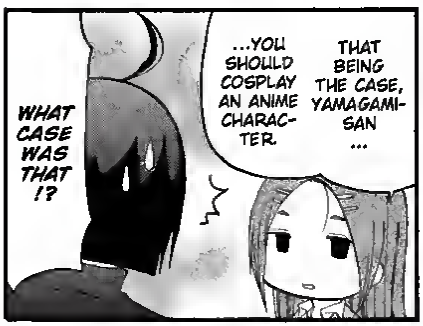


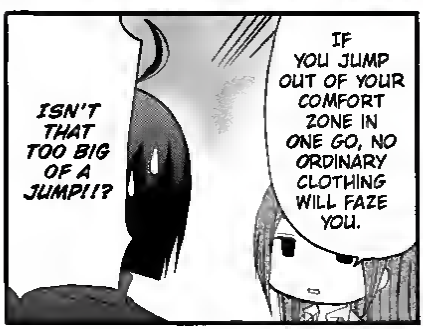


PUSHING ONESELF MATTERS TOO

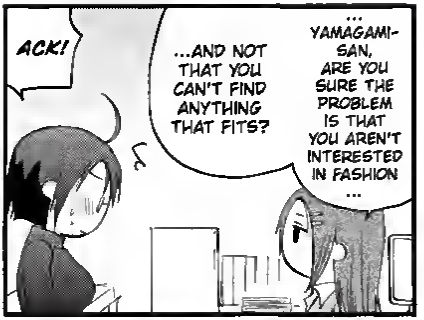

IT'S HARD TO FIND CLOTHES THAT LOOK NICE ON ME...
...SO I TRY TO STICK WITH SIMILAR STYLES.
W-WELL, THAT'S ROUGHLY MY SIZE.
F-CUPS ARE SMALL?
IN WHAT WORLD?


YOU HAVE A POINT ...
I UNDERSTAND YOUR DILEMMA, BUT CLOTHES DO MATTER IN THE WORKPLACE.
YOU HAVE TO PUT MORE THOUGHT INTO YOUR OUTFITS.



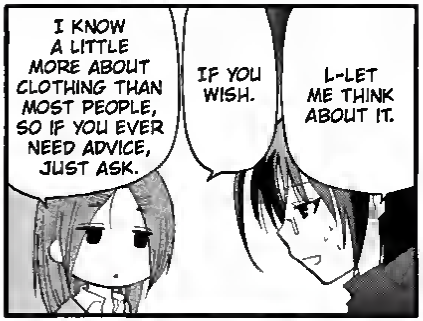


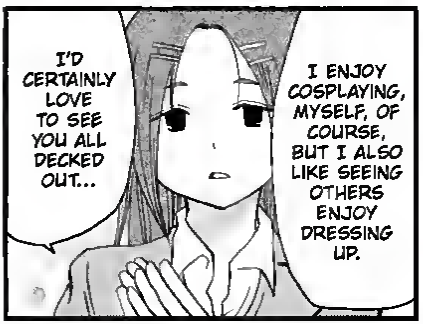
HER SIZE


ACK!
...AND NOT THAT YOU CAN'T FIND ANYTHING THAT FITS?
... YAMAGAMI-SAN, ARE YOU SURE THE PROBLEM IS THAT YOU AREN'T INTERESTED IN FASHION ...

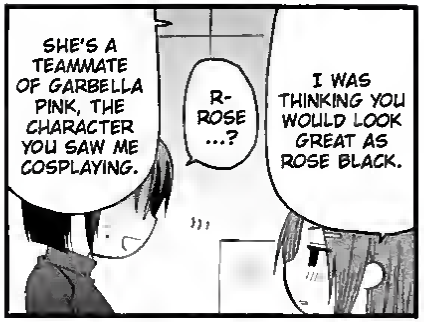
THEY'RE A LITTLE BIGGER THAN ONE WOULD EXPECT FOR MY HEIGHT, BUT THEY'RE NOTHING SPECIAL!
N-NO! THAT IS...
BECAUSE YOUR CHEST IS IN THE WAY...

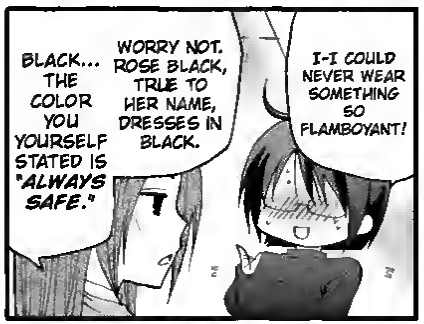
LOOKING FORWARD TO THE DAY

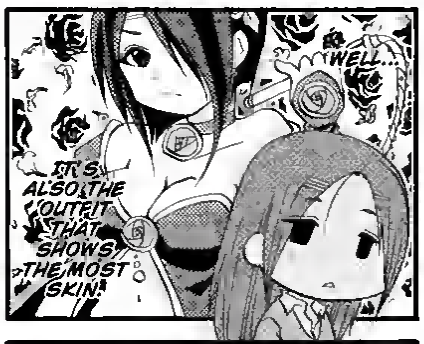


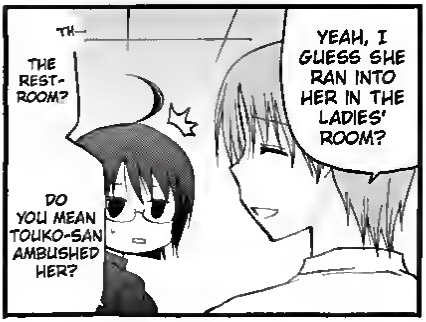

I'D CERTAINLY LOVE TO SEE YOU ALL DECKED OUT...
I ENJOY COSPLAYING, MYSELF, OF COURSE, BUT I ALSO LIKE SEEING OTHERS ENJOY DRESSING UP.

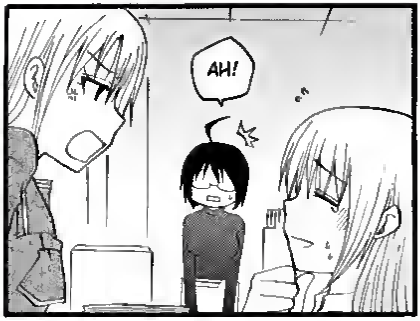
THE COLOR BLACK


SHE'S A TEAMMATE OF GARBELLA PINK, THE CHARACTER YOU SAW ME COSPLAYING.
R-ROSE ...?
I WAS THINKING YOU WOULD LOOK GREAT AS ROSE BLACK.

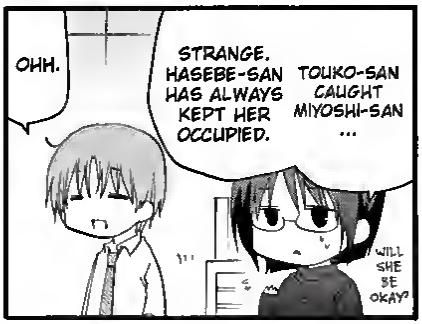

BLACK... THE COLOR YOU YOURSELF STATED IS "ALWAYS SAFE."
WORRY NOT. ROSE BLACK, TRUE TO HER NAME, DRESSES IN BLACK.
I-I COULD NEVER WEAR SOMETHING SO FLAMBOYANT!




TH—
THE REST-ROOM?
DO YOU MEAN TOUKO-SAN AMBUSHED HER?
YEAH, I GUESS SHE RAN INTO HER IN THE LADIES' ROOM?

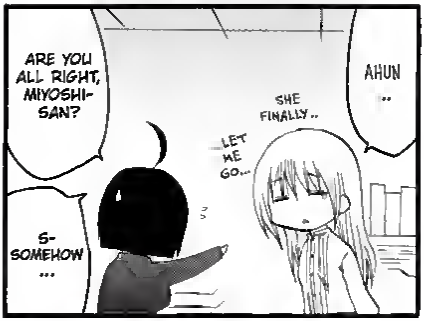

AH!

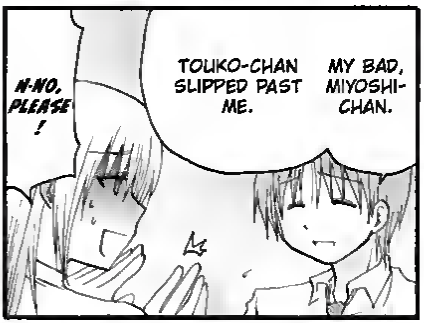
SO I TRY TO INTERCEPT HER AS MUCH AS I CAN.
BUT I DIDN'T PAY ANY ATTENTION TO THE LADIES' ROOM...
ANYBODY TOUKO-CHAN GRABS HOLD OF FALLS BEHIND ON THEIR WORK.
ESPECIALLY MIYOSHI-CHAN.


OHH.
STRANGE. HASEBE-SAN HAS ALWAYS KEPT HER OCCUPIED.
TOUKO-SAN CAUGHT MIYOSHI-SAN ...
WILL SHE BE OKAY?

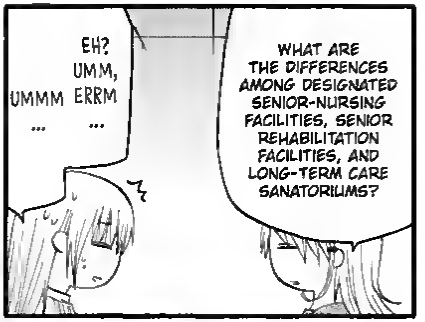
SERVANT × SERVICE
I'LL CALL THE POLICE.
STARTING TOMORROW, I'LL PATROL THE LADIES' ROOM TOO!
OKAY!
SHIMMER
うき
SHIMMER
うき
WORK:9

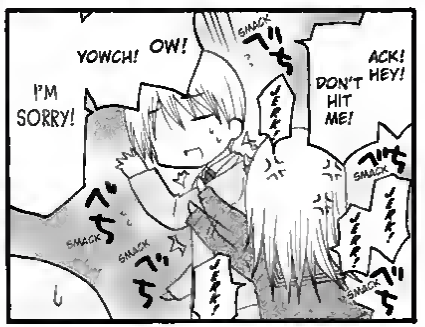
WHOSE FAULT?



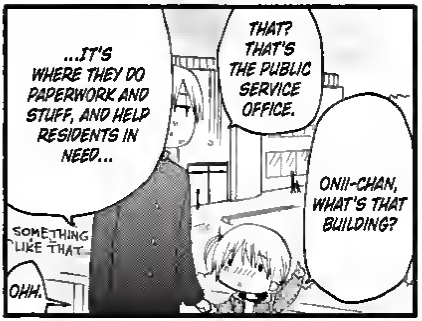


A BIG BROTHER'S PLACE

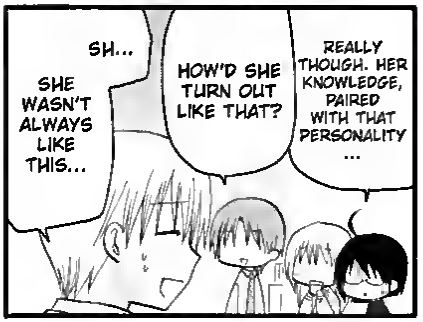

EH? UMM, UMMM ERRM ... ...
WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENCES AMONG DESIGNATED SENIOR-NURSING FACILITIES, SENIOR REHABILITATION FACILITIES, AND LONG-TERM CARE SANATORIUMS?



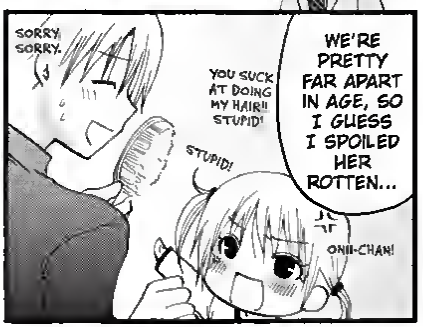
CHILDHOOD MEMORIES


ONII-CHAN, WHAT'S THAT BUILDING?
THAT? THAT'S THE PUBLIC SERVICE OFFICE.
...IT'S WHERE THEY DO PAPERWORK AND STUFF, AND HELP RESIDENTS IN NEED...
SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
OHH.

THE ICHIMIYA SIBLINGS

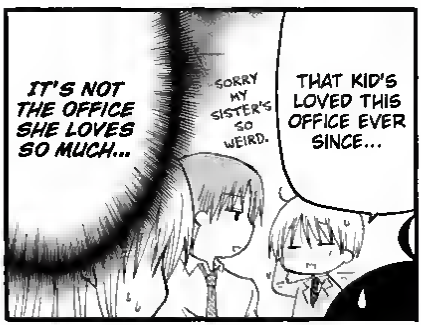


NOT ONLY WERE WE RAISED IN A SINGLE-PARENT HOUSEHOLD, OUR MOM'S PARENTS WERE IN BAD HEALTH TOO.
SO IT WAS MOSTLY ME LOOKING AFTER TOUKO.
SORRY
I WANT MY SNACK!! DUMMY!
SORRY

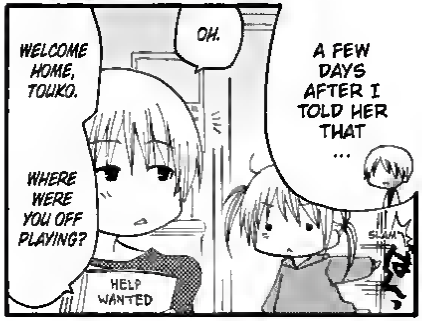


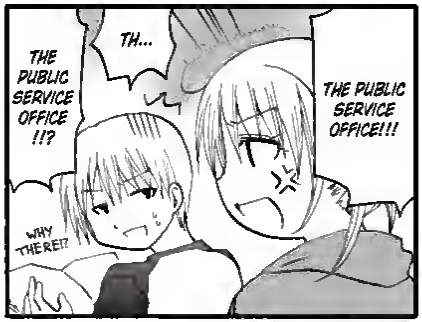
BABY SISTER PUSHES ADVICE

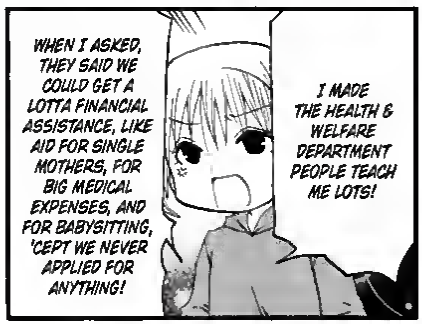
IT'S A BARGAIN OF A CAREER WITH STABLE PAY AND HOURS!
IF WE'RE SO HARD UP THAT YOU WANT TO WORK FOR POCKET CHANGE, YOU SHOULD BECOME A CIVIL SERVANT RIGHT OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL!
O-OKAY...

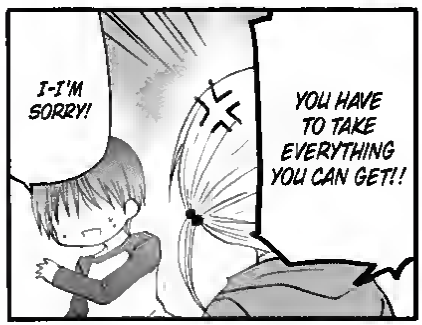


BABY SISTER STUDIES UP

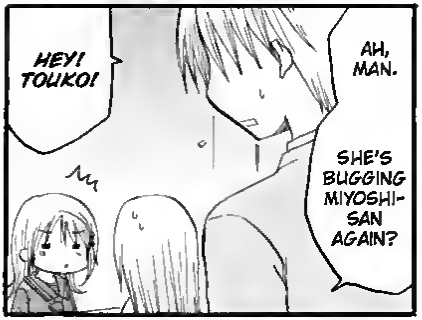




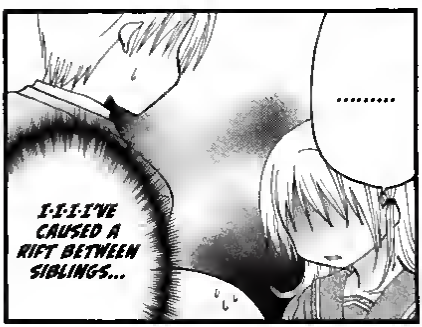

WHEN I ASKED, THEY SAID WE COULD GET A LOTTA FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, LIKE AID FOR SINGLE MOTHERS, FOR BIG MEDICAL EXPENSES, AND FOR BABYSITTING, 'CEPT WE NEVER APPLIED FOR ANYTHING!
I MADE THE HEALTH & WELFARE DEPARTMENT PEOPLE TEACH ME LOTS!



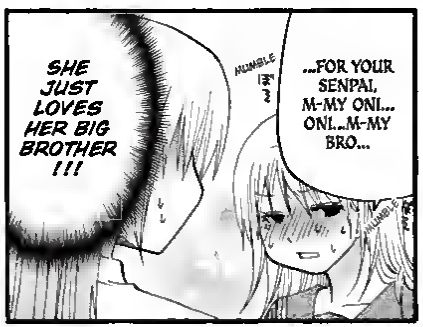
RETURN OF THE NIGHTMARE



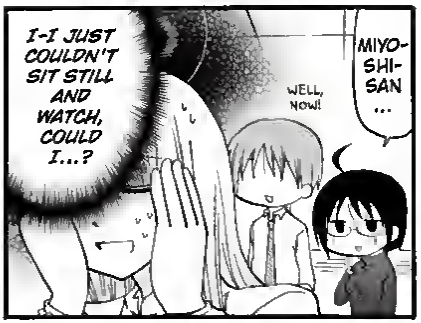
MIYOSHI-SAN WON'T HAVE TIME TO DO HER JOB IF SHE'S STUCK BABYSITTING YOU!
BUT I DO HAVE GOOD REASON! I'M TUTORING MIYOSHI.
DON'T BOTHER OUR STAFF WITHOUT GOOD REASON!

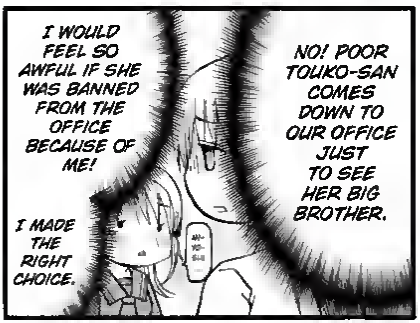


TOUKO'S ACTIONS



MORE THAN RESOLVE




I WOULD FEEL SO AWFUL IF SHE WAS BANNED FROM THE OFFICE BECAUSE OF ME!
NO! POOR TOUKO-SAN COMES DOWN TO OUR OFFICE JUST TO SEE HER BIG BROTHER.
I MADE THE RIGHT CHOICE.

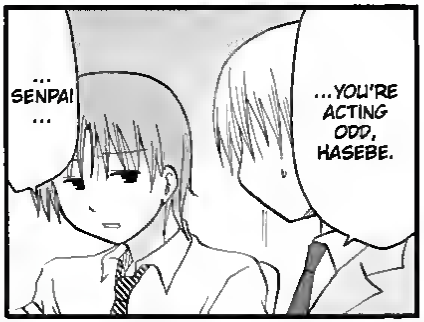
CAN'T BEAR TO WATCH

Y-YOU CAN COME VISIT ALL YOU LIKE!
YOUR LECTURES ARE INDISPENSIBLE, AND I'D APPRECIATE IT SO VERY MUCH IF YOU'D CONTINUE COACHING ME ...

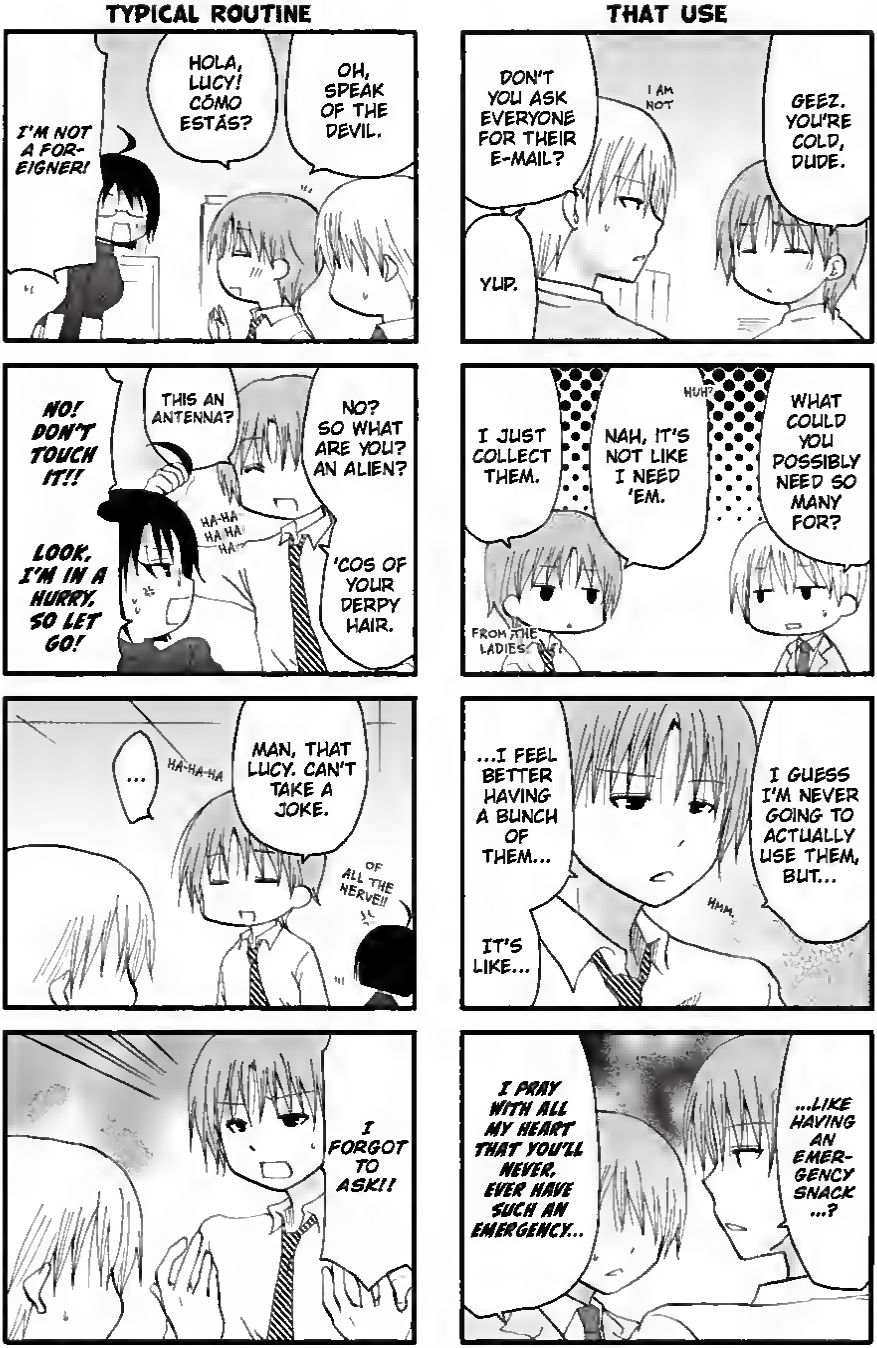
CAN I VENT TO YOU?
THERE'S SOMETHING THAT'S REALLY BEEN BUGGING ME...

.....
SIGH.
I BETTER HURRY HOME BEFORE TOUKO BLOWS A GASKET
WHEW.
FINALLY DONE.

I NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE YOU ALL WORRIED...
WHAT'S UP?
REALLY? S-SURE, I'LL LISTEN.

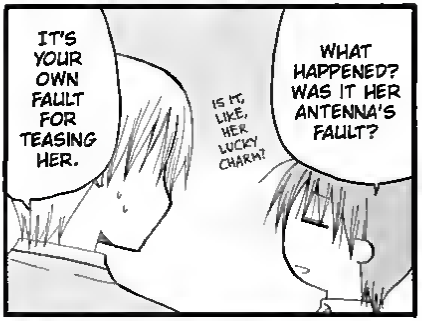

...
SENPAI
...
...YOU'RE ACTING ODD, HASEBE.

Health & Welfare Department
SORRY, I DON'T FEEL LIKE LISTENING AFTER ALL.
I STILL HAVEN'T GOTTEN LUCY'S E-MAIL ADDY.
SERVANT X SERVICE
WORK:10


TYPICAL ROUTINE
I'M NOT A FOR-EIGNER!
HOLA, LUCY! CÓMO ESTÁS?
OH, SPEAK OF THE DEVIL.
NO! DON'T TOUCH IT!!
LOOK, I'M IN A HURRY, SO LET GO!
THIS AN ANTENNA?
HA-HA HA HA
NO? SO WHAT ARE YOU? AN ALIEN?
'COS OF YOUR DERPY HAIR.
...
HA-HA-HA
MAN, THAT LUCY. CAN'T TAKE A JOKE.
OF ALL THE NERVE!!
I FORGOT TO ASK!!
THAT USE
DON'T YOU ASK EVERYONE FOR THEIR E-MAIL?
YUP.
I AM NOT
GEEZ. YOU'RE COLD, DUDE.
I JUST COLLECT THEM.
NAH, IT'S NOT LIKE I NEED 'EM.
HUH?
WHAT COULD YOU POSSIBLY NEED SO MANY FOR?
FROM THE LADIES
...I FEEL BETTER HAVING A BUNCH OF THEM...
IT'S LIKE...
HMM.
I GUESS I'M NEVER GOING TO ACTUALLY USE THEM, BUT...
I PRAY WITH ALL MY HEART THAT YOU'LL NEVER, EVER HAVE SUCH AN EMERGENCY...
...LIKE HAVING AN EMER-GENCY SNACK ...?

MUST BE FATE?

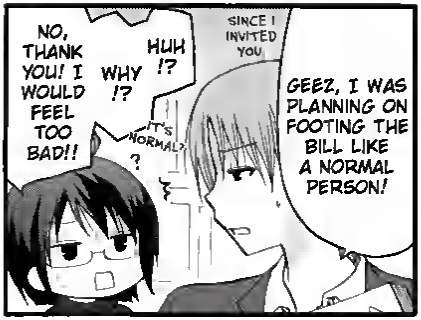
WHEN HE PUTS HIS MIND TO IT



EXCUSE? ①

EXCUSE? ②

DEAL

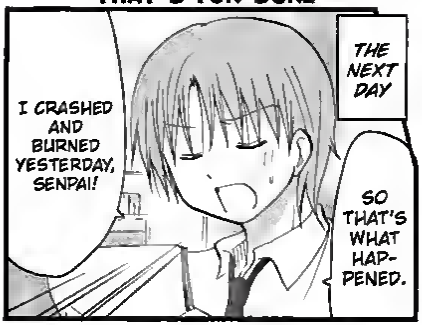

NO, THANK YOU! I WOULD FEEL TOO BAD!!
WHY !?
HUH !?
IT'S NORMAL?
SINCE I INVITED YOU
GEEZ, I WAS PLANNING ON FOOTING THE BILL LIKE A NORMAL PERSON!

I'M A WORD ADDICT! LET ME BE!
...STOP SKIPPING MEALS. IT'S BAD FOR YOU.
PUTTING THAT ASIDE ...
RUMBL
RUMBL
GIVE BACK MY BOOKS!
THAT'S THE FINAL VOLUME!

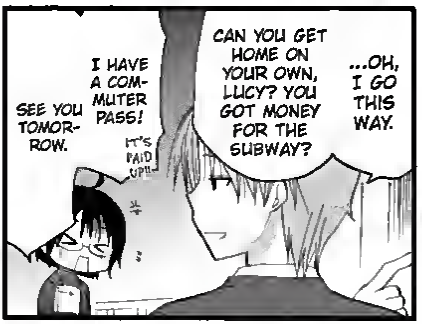
GET IT ALREADY

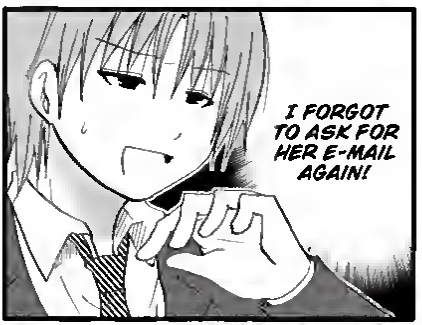
WHEN IT'S CLOSE TO PAYDAY, I CUT DOWN ON EXPENSES ...
...BY SKIPPING MEALS.
THE TRUTH IS, I'M RUNNING LOW ON FUNDS BECAUSE I BOUGHT TOO MANY BOOKS.

THAT'S FOR SURE

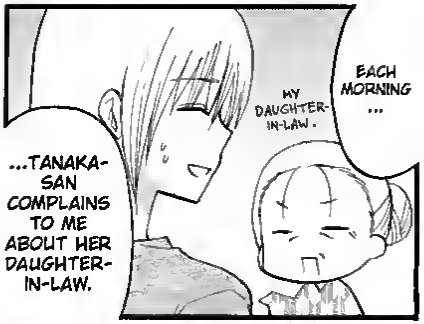


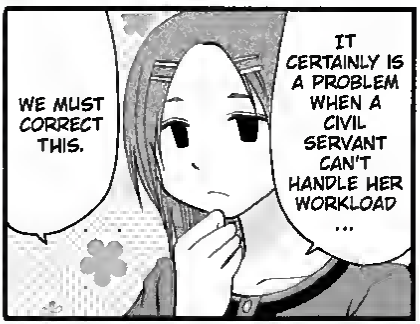
SOMETHING IMPORTANT


SEE YOU TOMOR-ROW.
I HAVE A COM-MUTER PASS!
IT'S PAID UP!!
CAN YOU GET HOME ON YOUR OWN, LUCY? YOU GOT MONEY FOR THE SUBWAY?
...OH, I GO THIS WAY.

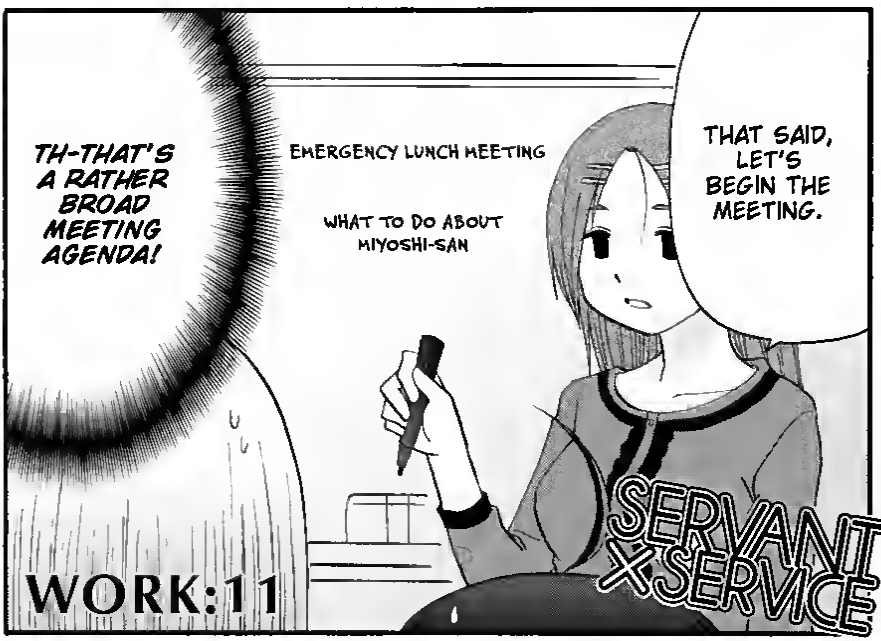


HMM ...
H-HANG IN THERE, MIYOSHI-SAN.
I CAN NEVER CATCH UP ON MY DESKWORK ...
IS IT TOO LATE FOR ME?

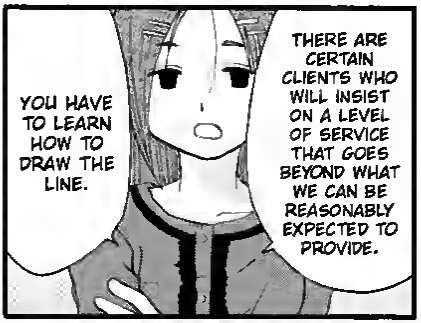

EACH MORNING ...
MY DAUGHTER-IN-LAW.
...TANAKA-SAN COMPLAINS TO ME ABOUT HER DAUGHTER-IN-LAW.

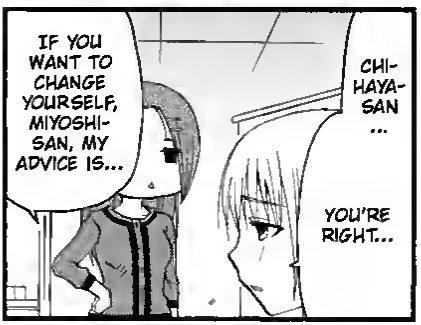

IT CERTAINLY IS A PROBLEM WHEN A CIVIL SERVANT CAN'T HANDLE HER WORKLOAD ...
WE MUST CORRECT THIS.

EACH AFTER-NOON ...
GET IT MEMORIZED!
DUMMY
...TOUKO-SAN BARRAGES ME WITH QUESTIONS.

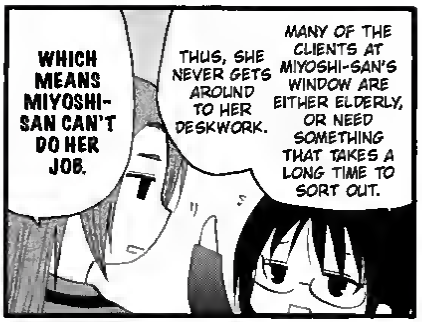

TH-THAT'S A RATHER BROAD MEETING AGENDA!
EMERGENCY LUNCH MEETING
WHAT TO DO ABOUT MIYOSHI-SAN
THAT SAID, LET'S BEGIN THE MEETING.
WORK:11
SERVANT × SERVICE

SELF-HELP ADVICE

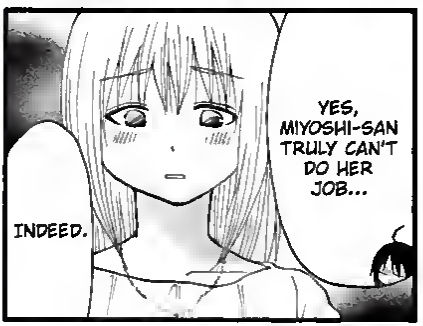

YOU HAVE TO LEARN HOW TO DRAW THE LINE.
THERE ARE CERTAIN CLIENTS WHO WILL INSIST ON A LEVEL OF SERVICE THAT GOES BEYOND WHAT WE CAN BE REASONABLY EXPECTED TO PROVIDE.

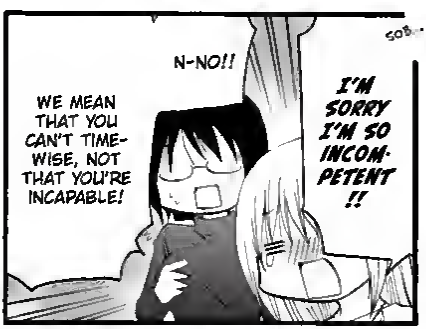


CAN'T

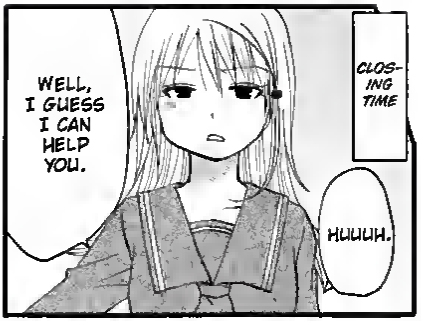

WHICH MEANS MIYOSHI-SAN CAN'T DO HER JOB.
THUS, SHE NEVER GETS AROUND TO HER DESKWORK.
MANY OF THE CLIENTS AT MIYOSHI-SAN'S WINDOW ARE EITHER ELDERLY, OR NEED SOMETHING THAT TAKES A LONG TIME TO SORT OUT.

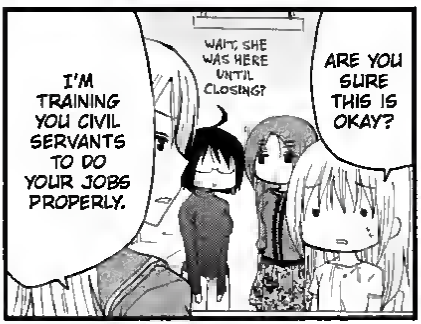
MIYOSHI-SAN CAN'T DO HER JOB, CAN SHE?
...BUT MIYOSHI-SAN IS SO CONSCIENTIOUS THAT SHE CAN'T TURN THEM AWAY.
WHAT'S MORE, WE KNOW TANAKA-SAN AND TOUKO-SAN TO BE LONG-WINDED

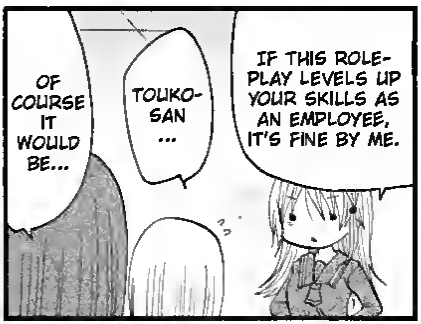


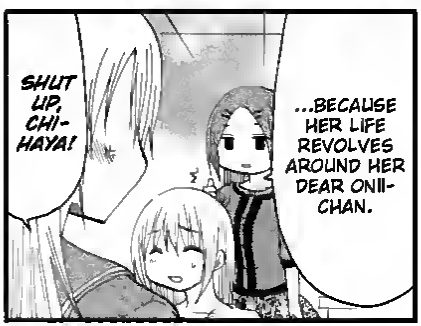


ALL SET

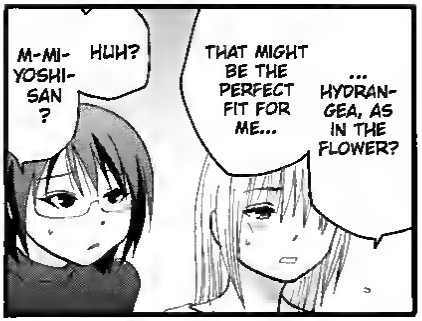


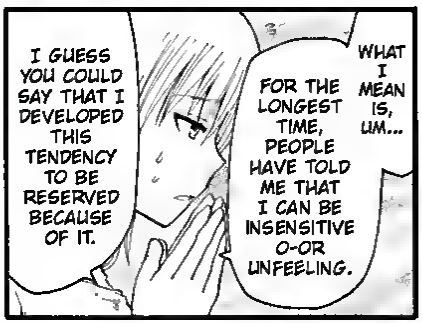


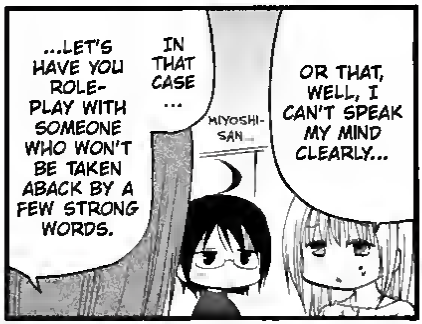


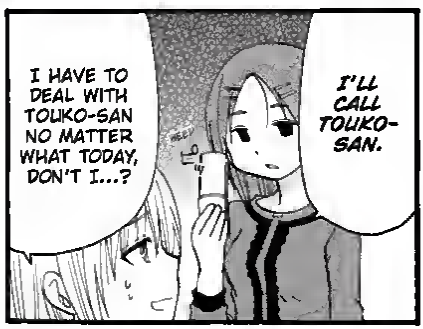


ROLE-PLAY PARTNER



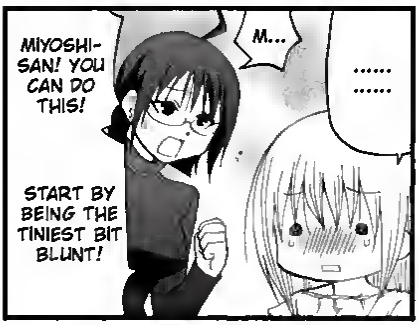

I GUESS YOU COULD SAY THAT I DEVELOPED THIS TENDENCY TO BE RESERVED BECAUSE OF IT.
FOR THE LONGEST TIME, PEOPLE HAVE TOLD ME THAT I CAN BE INSENSITIVE O-OR UNFEELING.
WHAT I MEAN IS, UM...

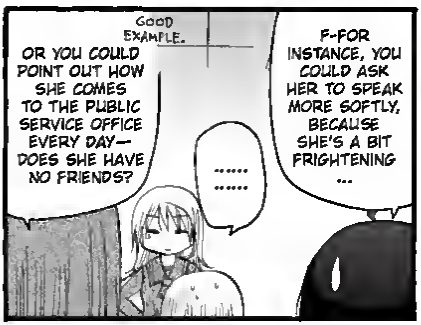

...LET'S HAVE YOU ROLE-PLAY WITH SOMEONE WHO WON'T BE TAKEN ABACK BY A FEW STRONG WORDS.
IN THAT CASE ...
MIYOSHI-SAN...
OR THAT, WELL, I CAN'T SPEAK MY MIND CLEARLY...

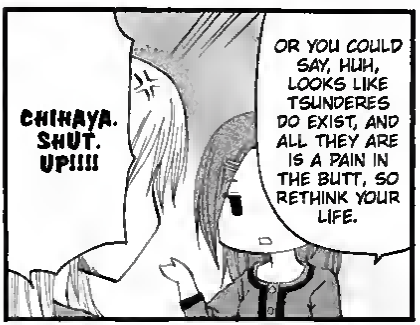


LET'S BE BLUNT

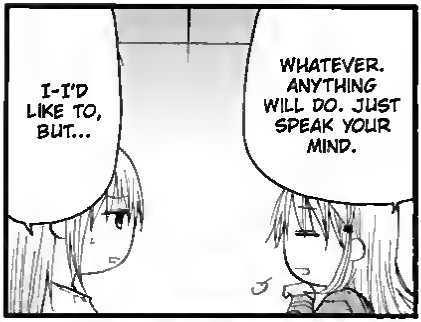
MIYOSHI-SAN'S GETTING THE LECTURE INSTEAD...
YOU DON'T HAVE ANY-THING TO SAY!?
DON'T YOU THINK FOR YOUR-SELF!?
GET YOURSELF TOGETHER!!

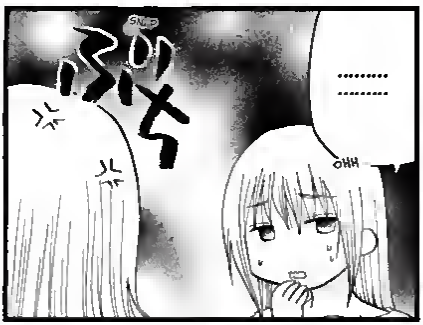


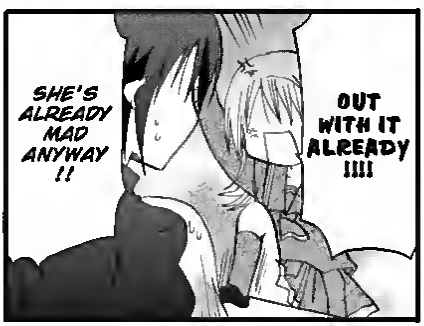

Good example.
OR YOU COULD POINT OUT HOW SHE COMES TO THE PUBLIC SERVICE OFFICE EVERY DAY—DOES SHE HAVE NO FRIENDS?
F-FOR INSTANCE, YOU COULD ASK HER TO SPEAK MORE SOFTLY, BECAUSE SHE'S A BIT FRIGHTENING ...
.....
.....


CHIHAYA. SHUT. UP!!!!
OR YOU COULD SAY, HUH, LOOKS LIKE TSUNDERES DO EXIST, AND ALL THEY ARE IS A PAIN IN THE BUTT, SO RETHINK YOUR LIFE.

MADE HER MAD

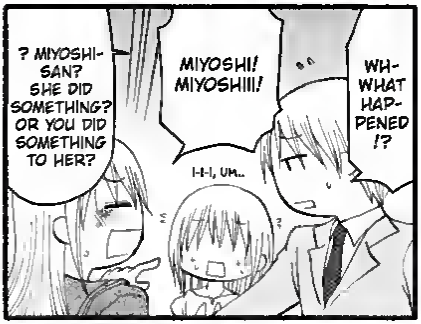


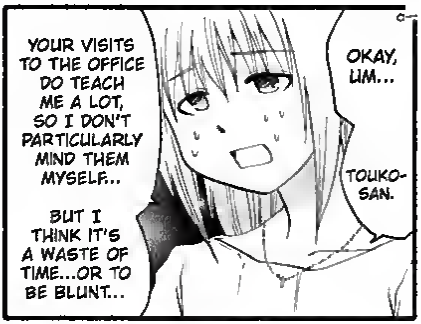




RIGHT ON THE MARK
BWAAAAAH!
WH...?
TOUKO!?
EEEE!

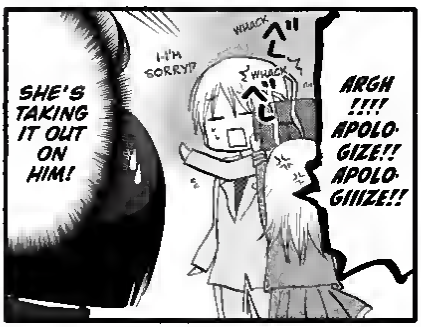
BEHIND ALL THE HESITANCE
B-BUT I DON'T WANT TO BE INSENSITIVE...
I CAN TAKE ANYTHING YOU THROW AT ME!!
SAY IT!

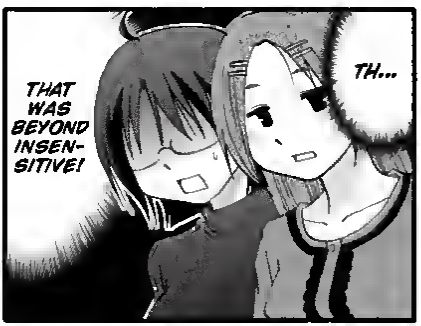

WH-WHAT HAPPENED!?
MIYOSHI! MIYOSHIII!
I-I-I, UM...
? MIYOSHI-SAN? SHE DID SOMETHING? OR YOU DID SOMETHING TO HER?


OKAY, UM...
TOUKO-SAN.
YOUR VISITS TO THE OFFICE DO TEACH ME A LOT, SO I DON'T PARTICULARLY MIND THEM MYSELF...
BUT I THINK IT'S A WASTE OF TIME...OR TO BE BLUNT...

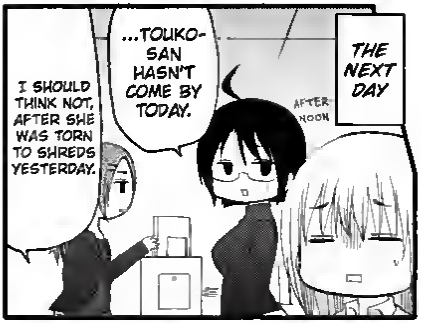
NO WAY CAN SHE SAY IT.
?

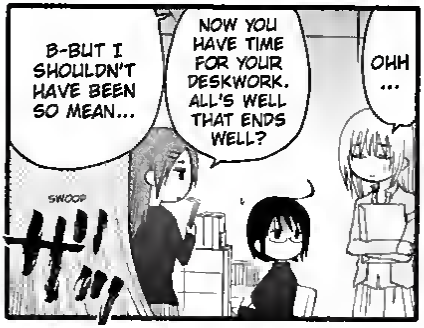
...YOU'LL NEVER GET YOUR FEELINGS FOR YOUR BROTHER THROUGH TO HIM.
EVER.

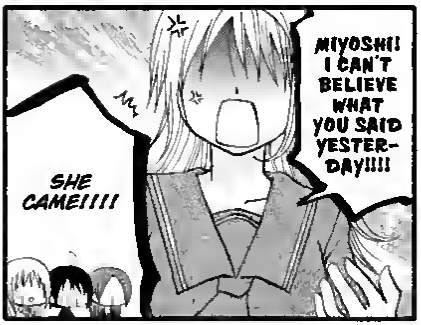

ARGH!!!! APOLOGIZE!! APOLOGIIIZE!!
WHACK
I-I'M SORRY!?
WHACK
SHE'S TAKING IT OUT ON HIM!

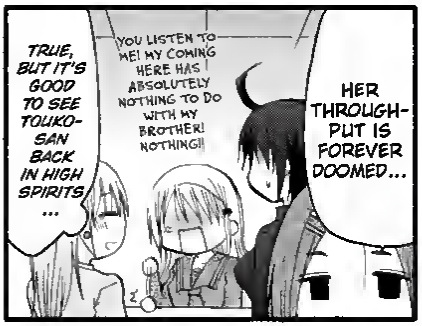

TH...
THAT WAS BEYOND INSENSITIVE!

THE END RESULT OF COURAGE

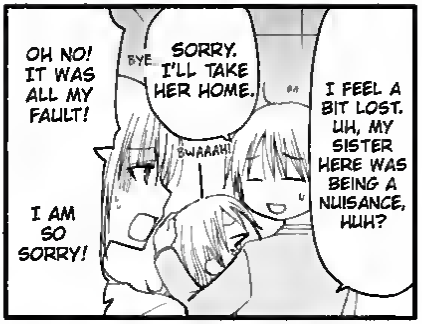


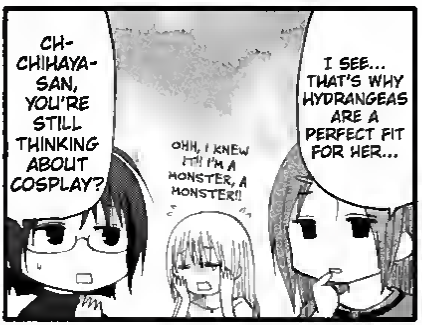


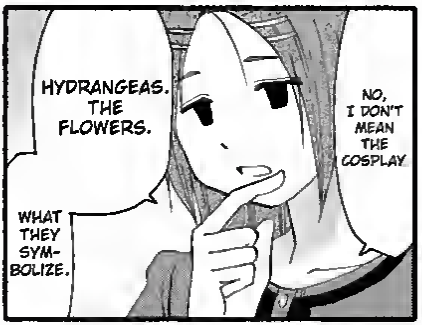



TRUE, BUT IT'S GOOD TO SEE TOUKO-SAN BACK IN HIGH SPIRITS...
YOU LISTEN TO ME! MY COMING HERE HAS ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO DO WITH MY BROTHER! NOTHING!!
HER THROUGH-PUT IS FOREVER DOOMED...

HYDRANGEA


OH NO! IT WAS ALL MY FAULT!
I AM SO SORRY!
BYE
SORRY. I'LL TAKE HER HOME.
SWAAAH!
I FEEL A BIT LOST. UH, MY SISTER HERE WAS BEING A NUISANCE, HUH?


CH-CHIHAYA-SAN, YOU'RE STILL THINKING ABOUT COSPLAY?
OHH, I KNEW IT!! I'M A MONSTER, A MONSTER!!
I SEE... THAT'S WHY HYDRANGEAS ARE A PERFECT FIT FOR HER...

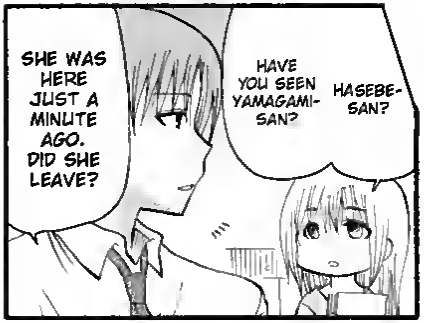


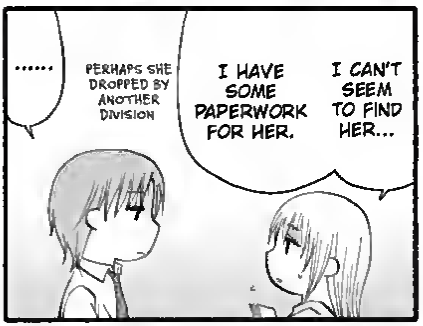
TAISHI ICHIMIYA 26 YEARS OLD
TOUKO'S BIG BROTHER. THERE HASN'T BEEN A GOOD MOMENT TO BUILD ON HIS CHARACTER, BUT AS HE'S ACTUALLY PRETTY ESSENTIAL, WE'LL NEED HIM TO PULL HIS WEIGHT IN THE SECOND HALF OF THIS VOLUME AND ON.
HOW OLD ARE YOU NOW?
M— HM.
SENPAI, YOU STARTED HERE, WHEN WAS IT, STRAIGHT OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL?
26.
WOW, SENPAI.
SO YOU'VE BEEN WORKING HERE FOR EIGHT YEARS...
DROP IT...
YOU'VE BEEN WORKING HERE FOR ALMOST A DECADE, BUT YOU DON'T GIVE OFF A SHRED OF AUTHORITY.

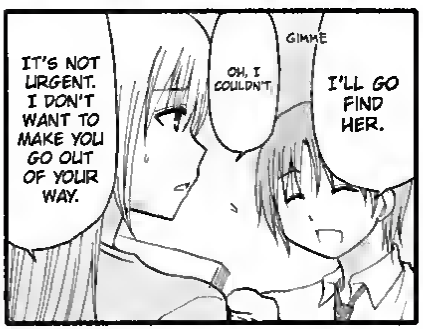
TOUKO ICHIMIYA 17 YEARS OLD
WITH SO MANY ADULT CHARACTERS, I NEEDED TO FILL MY HIGH SCHOOL GIRL QUOTA, AND THAT'S HOW SHE CAME TO BE. I WANTED TO DO A BABY SISTER-LIKE CHARACTER, BUT I FEEL LIKE I MISSED THE MARK SOMEWHAT... WELL, SHE'S THE KIND OF BABY SISTER WHO MAKES YOU QUESTION HER BABY SISTER-NESS.
T-TOUKO-SAN...
WHAT?
C-CAN I ASK...WHY ARE YOU ALWAYS SO ANGRY?
HAA!?
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I'M ANGRY!!?
W-WELL, ACTUALLY ...
YOU KNOW ...
THERE'S ALWAYS A VEIN POPPING UNDER YOUR EYE...
GOD! THAT'S, LIKE, A BEAUTY MARK!!
YOU GOT A PROBLEM!?
SLAM
ばん
A BEAUTY MARK!?
BUT YOU ARE MAD, AREN'T YOU!?

SO, LIKE, I HAVE TO SLACK OFF. TO SLOW MYSELF DOWN.
WHEN I'VE GOT NOTHIN' TO DO, I END UP FINISHING MY WORK IN NO TIME AT ALL.
FSSH
... MM-HM.
RAIN SUCKS, DON'T IT, LUCY?
RAINING CATS AND DOGS TODAY, HUH?
AND YOU CAN'T GO UP ON THE ROOF IN THE RAIN EITHER.
IT'S, LIKE, SUPER INCONVE-NIENT.
BUT WANDERING THROUGH AN EMPTY OFFICE REALLY MAKES YOU STICK OUT.
FSSH
... MM-HM.
NOTHIN' TO DO.
FEWER CLIENTS TREK OUT TO OUR OFFICE IN THE RAIN.
SERVANT X SERVICE
I STOPPED BEING ABLE TO AGREE WITH YOU HALFWAY THROUGH.
DON'T YOU HATE THE RAIN, LUCY?
WORK:12

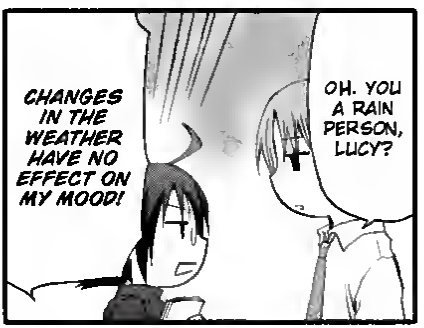
AS AN EXCUSE

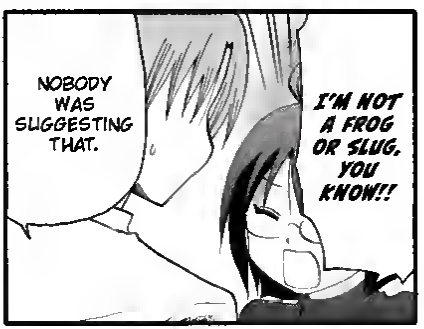


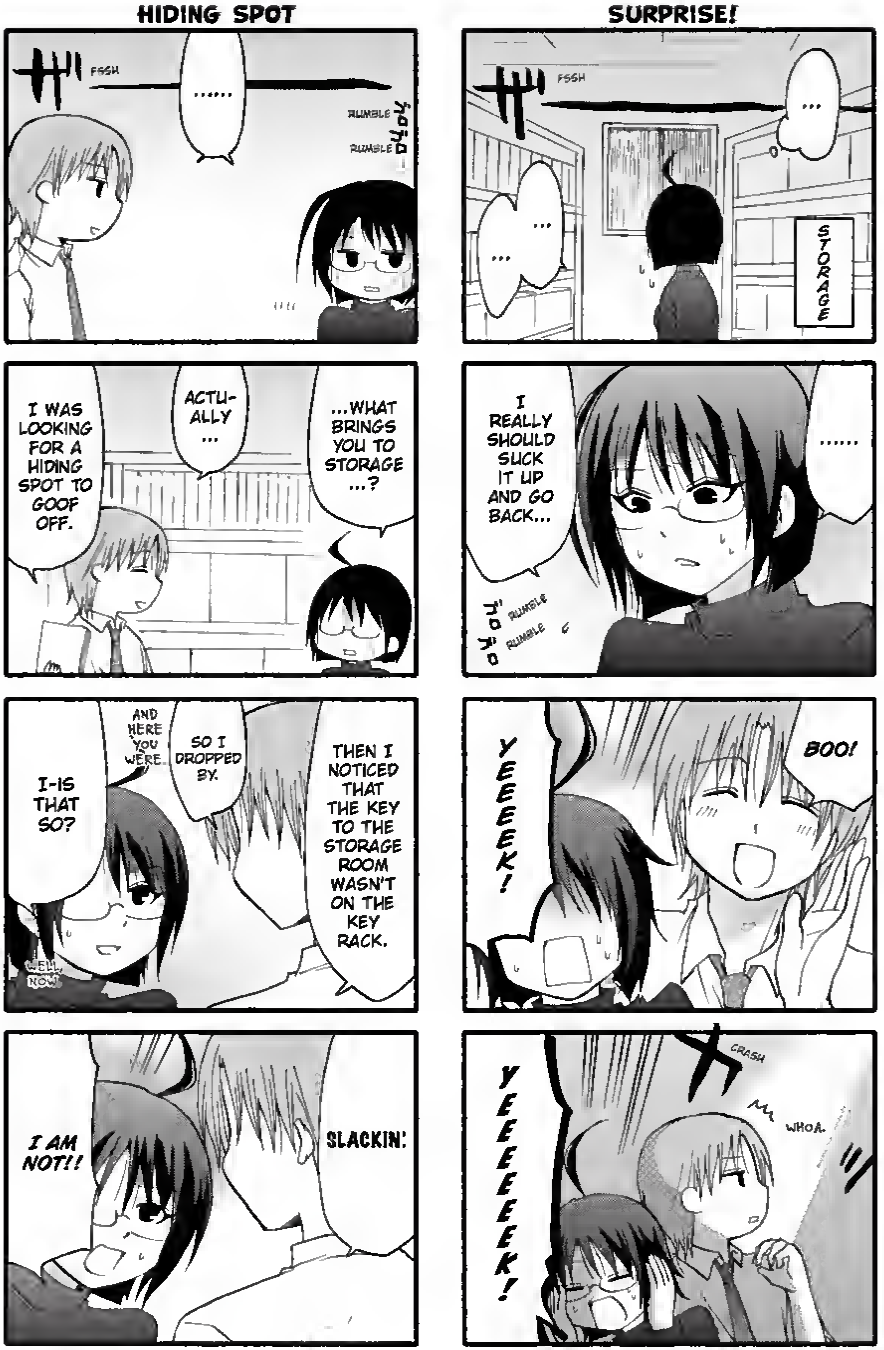




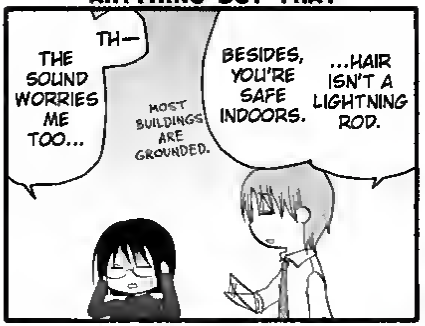
RAIN PERSON?





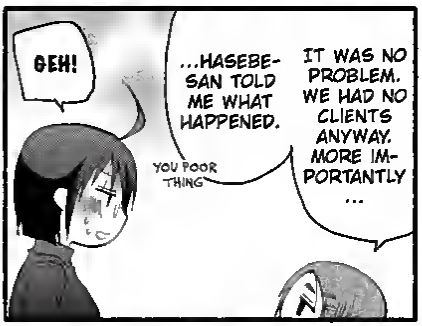

HIDING SPOT
FSSH
.....
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
SURPRISE!
FSSH
...
...
...
STORAGE
I WAS LOOKING FOR A HIDING SPOT TO GOOF OFF.
ACTU-ALLY ...
...WHAT BRINGS YOU TO STORAGE ...?
I REALLY SHOULD SUCK IT UP AND GO BACK...
.....
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
I-IS THAT SO?
AND HERE YOU WERE.
SO I DROPPED BY.
THEN I NOTICED THAT THE KEY TO THE STORAGE ROOM WASN'T ON THE KEY RACK.
WELL, NOW!
YEEEEK!
BOO!
I AM NOT!!
SLACKIN'
YEEEEEEEK!
CRASH
WHOA.

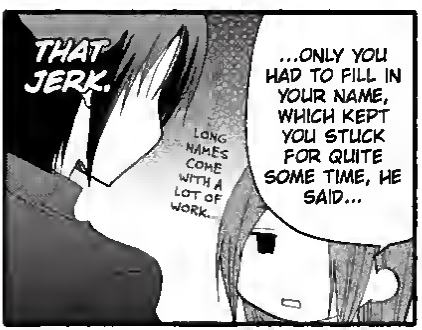
ANYTHING BUT THAT



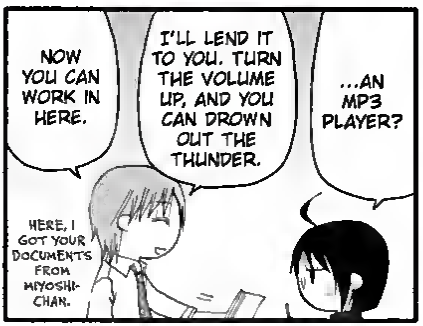
ORIGIN OF FEAR

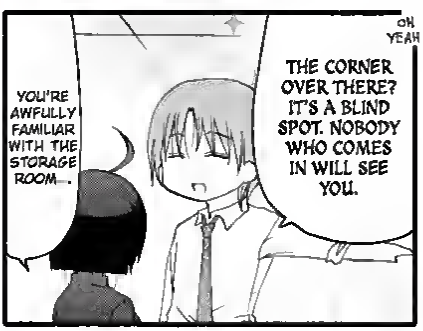
NOTHING FOR IT



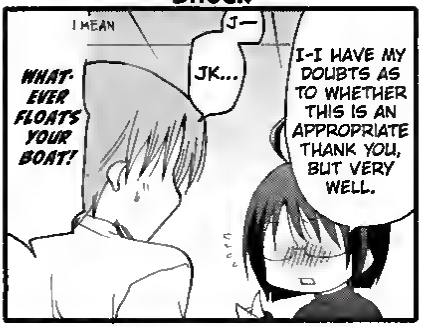

THAT JERK.
LONG NAMES COME WITH A LOT OF WORK..
...ONLY YOU HAD TO FILL IN YOUR NAME, WHICH KEPT YOU STUCK FOR QUITE SOME TIME, HE SAID...

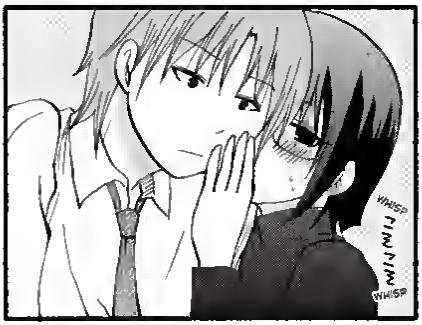
A THOUGHTFUL GUY


NOW YOU CAN WORK IN HERE.
I'LL LEND IT TO YOU. TURN THE VOLUME UP, AND YOU CAN DROWN OUT THE THUNDER.
...AN MP3 PLAYER?
HERE, I GOT YOUR DOCUMENTS FROM MIYOSHI-CHAN.

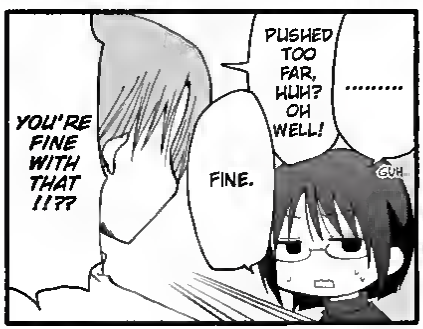

OH YEAH
YOU'RE AWFULLY FAMILIAR WITH THE STORAGE ROOM...
THE CORNER OVER THERE? IT'S A BLIND SPOT. NOBODY WHO COMES IN WILL SEE YOU.

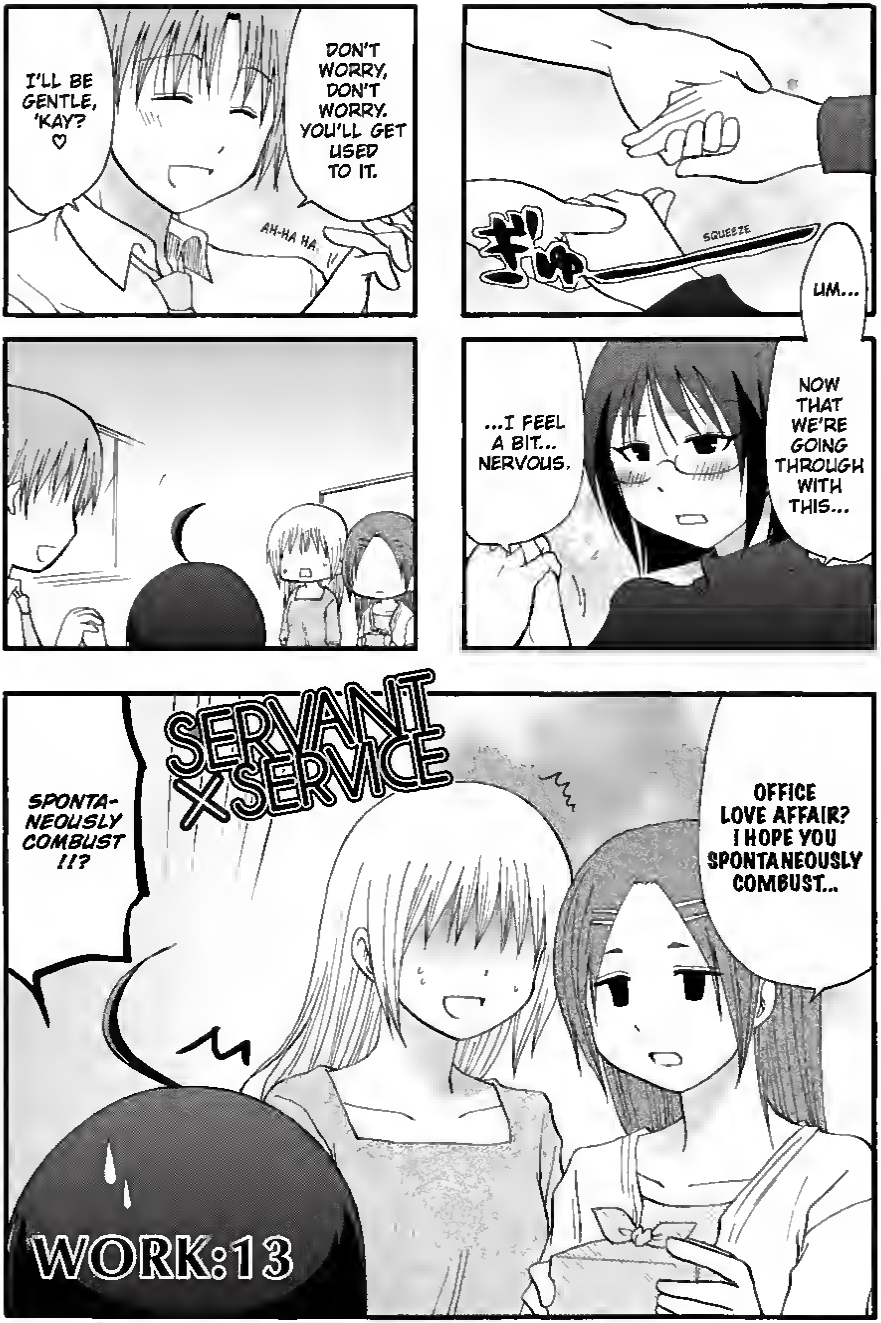
SHOCK



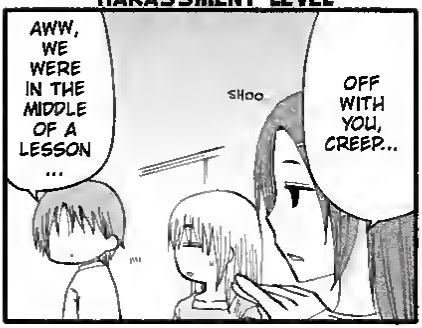


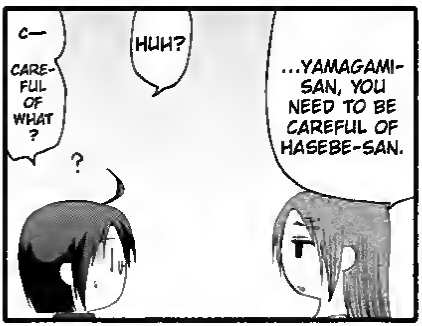
PROPER THANKS

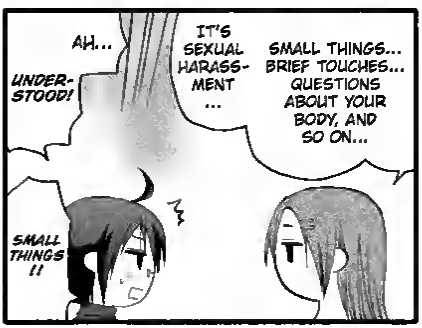


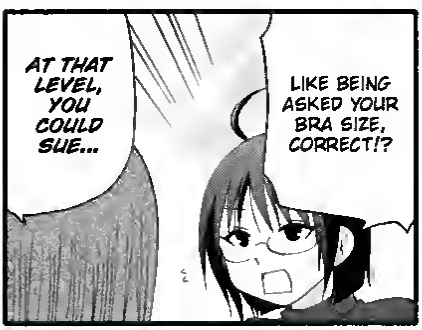

I'LL BE GENTLE, 'KAY? ♡
DON'T WORRY, DON'T WORRY. YOU'LL GET USED TO IT.
AH-HA HA
SQUEEZE
UM...
NOW THAT WE'RE GOING THROUGH WITH THIS...
...I FEEL A BIT... NERVOUS.
SERVANT X SERVICE
OFFICE LOVE AFFAIR? I HOPE YOU SPONTANEOUSLY COMBUST...
SPONTA-NEOUSLY COMBUST !!?
WORK:13

HARASSMENT LEVEL

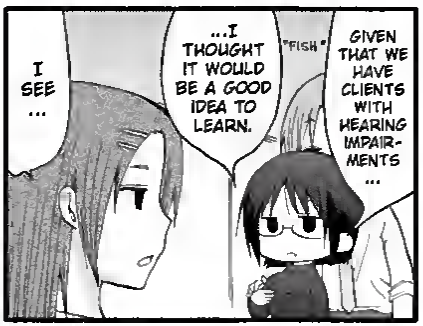


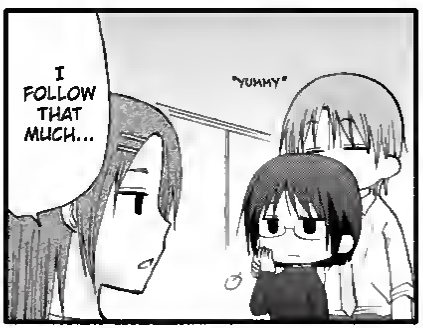


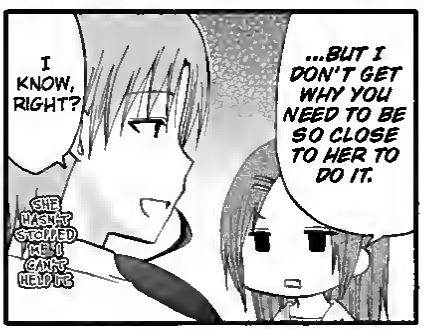




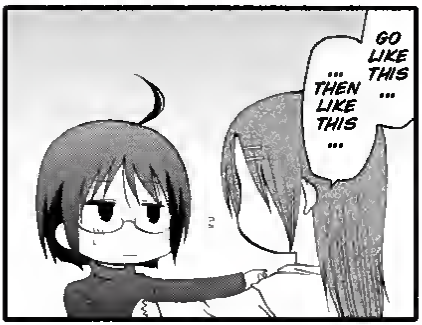
SIGN LANGUAGE LESSON

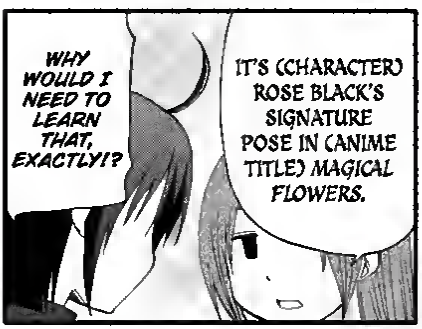




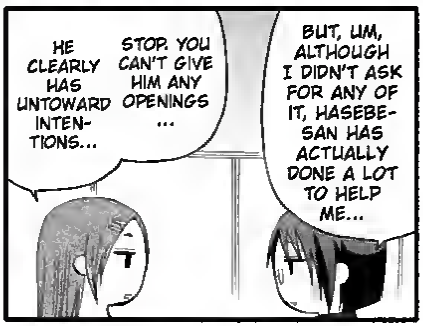


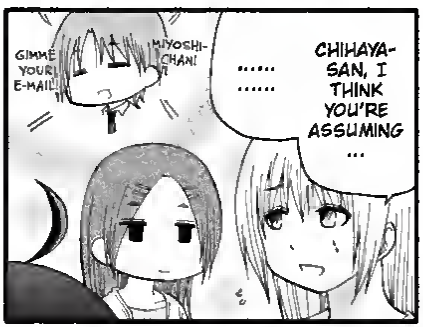
SORTA SIGN LANGUAGE LESSON

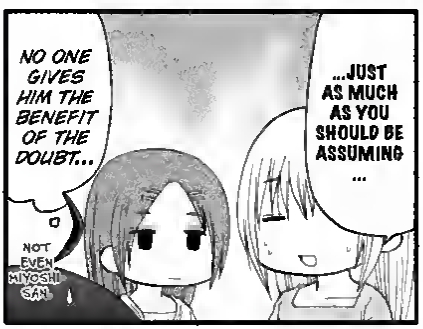




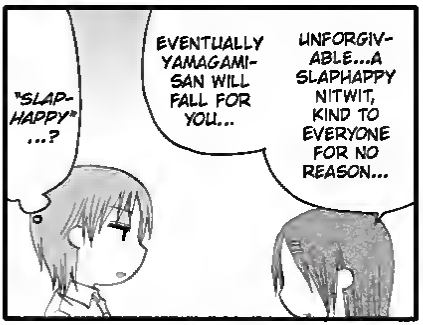
TRUST LEVEL

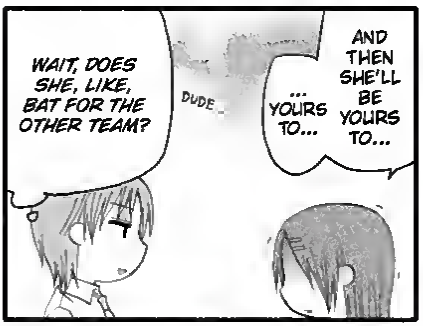

HE CLEARLY HAS UNTOWARD INTEN-TIONS...
STOP. YOU CAN'T GIVE HIM ANY OPENINGS ...
BUT, UM, ALTHOUGH I DIDN'T ASK FOR ANY OF IT, HASEBE-SAN HAS ACTUALLY DONE A LOT TO HELP ME...

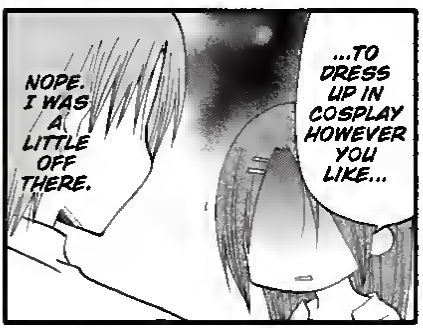




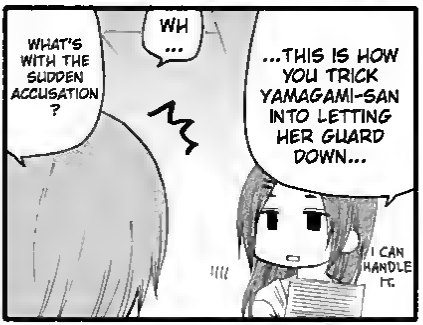
CHIHAYA, JEALOUS



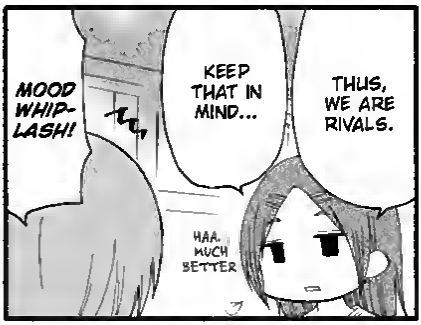


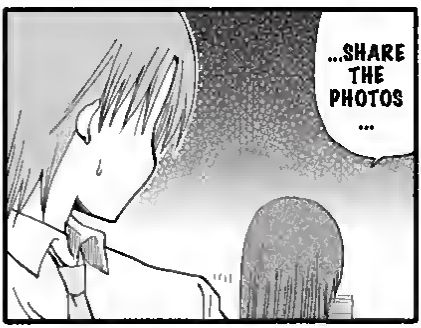


CHIHAYA ON GUARD

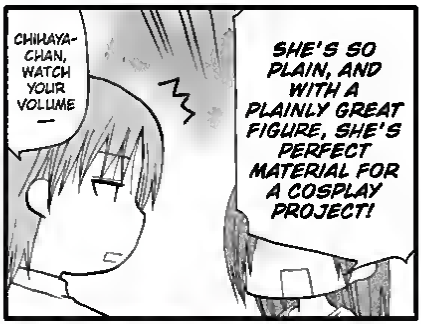


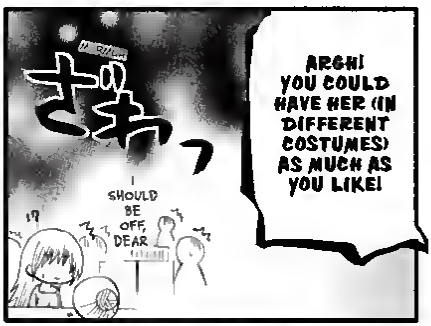
CHIHAYA, SATISFIED



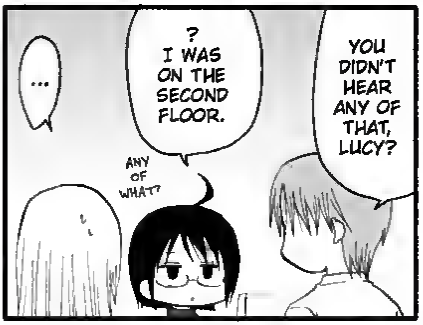


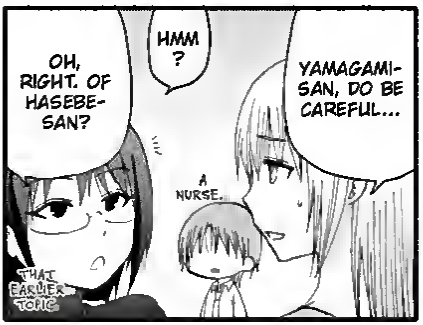
CHIHAYA MAX

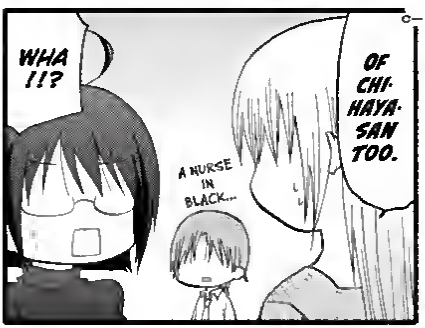

CHIHAYA-CHAN, WATCH YOUR VOLUME —
SHE'S SO PLAIN, AND WITH A PLAINLY GREAT FIGURE, SHE'S PERFECT MATERIAL FOR A COSPLAY PROJECT!



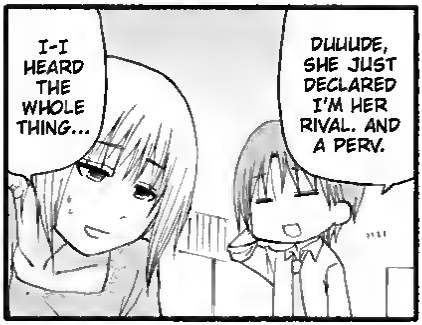
YOU CAN ONLY TRUST YOURSELF

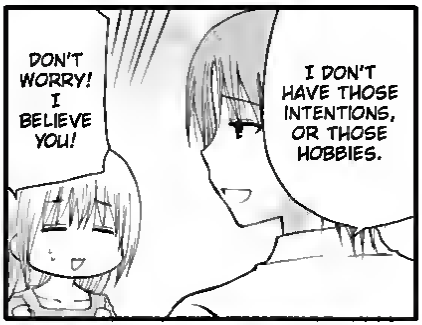


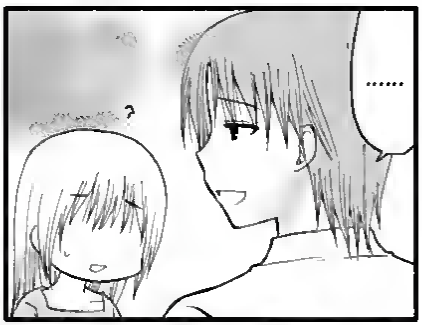


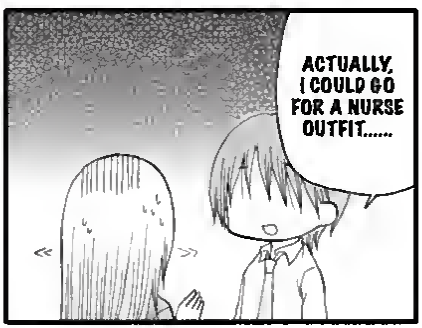


POSSIBILITY?





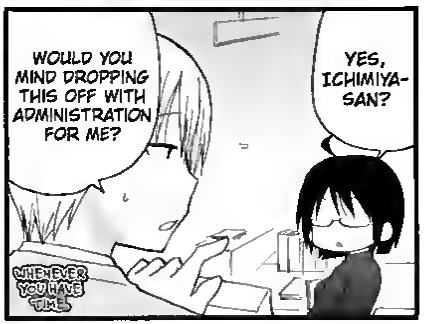




I HAVE TO MAKE A TRIP OUT OF THE OFFICE.
GREAT.
I DON'T MIND AT ALL. ACTUALLY, I WAS ABOUT TO GO THERE ANYWAY.

YAMA-GAMI-SAN?

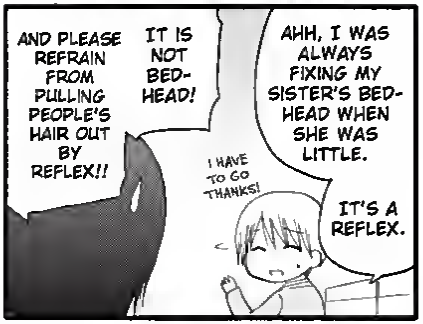
SORRY.
OOPS!
—UM... ARE YOU TOUCHING MY HAIR FOR ANY PARTICULAR REASON?

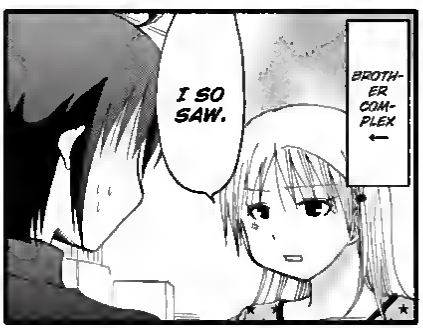

WOULD YOU MIND DROPPING THIS OFF WITH ADMINISTRATION FOR ME?
YES, ICHIMIYA-SAN?
WHENEVER YOU HAVE TIME.

I WAS WONDERING IF I COULD PULL OUT THAT COW-LICK, AND BEFORE I KNEW IT...
YOU WERE GOING TO PULL IT OUT!?
DON'T DO THAT!!
SERVANT X SERVICE
WORK:14

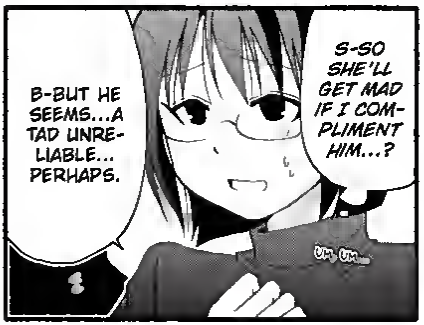
INDISCERNIBLE

INCONVENIENT TIMING

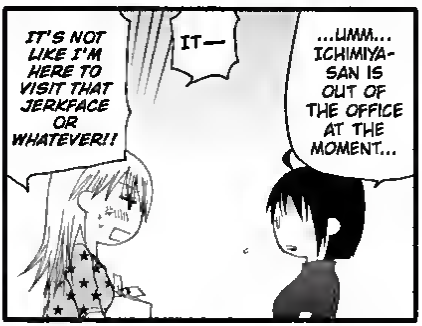

AND PLEASE REFRAIN FROM PULLING PEOPLE'S HAIR OUT BY REFLEX!!
IT IS NOT BED-HEAD!
AHH, I WAS ALWAYS FIXING MY SISTER'S BED-HEAD WHEN SHE WAS LITTLE.
I HAVE TO GO THANKS!
IT'S A REFLEX.

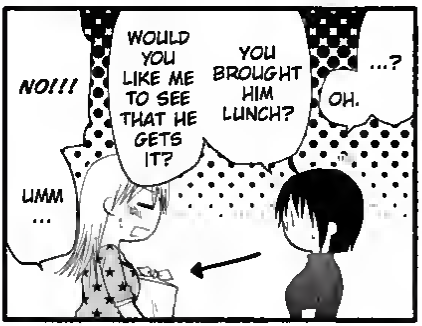


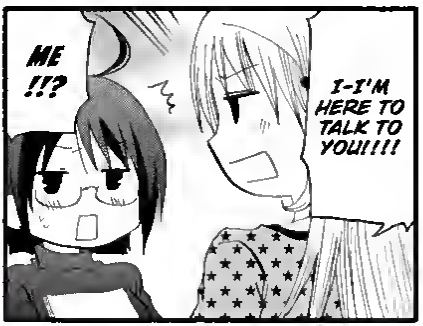
DAMNED IF YOU DO



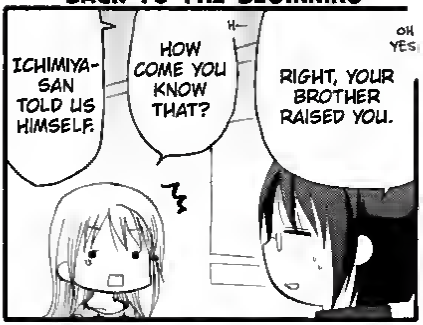
WHO'S THAT FOR?

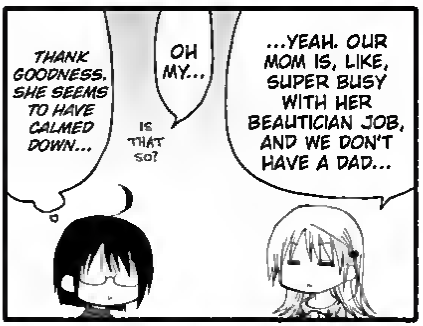


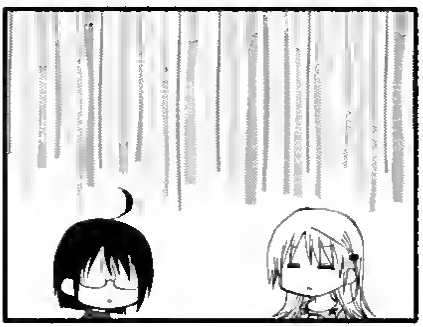




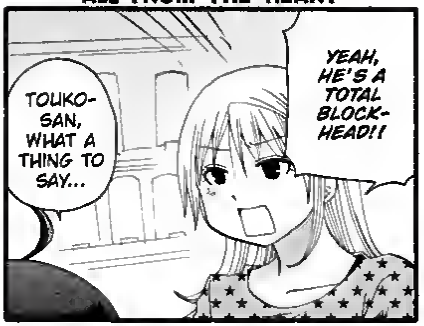
BACK TO THE BEGINNING



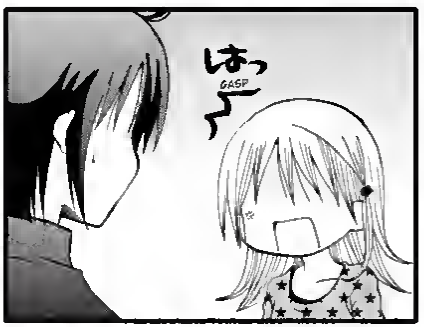

THANK GOODNESS. SHE SEEMS TO HAVE CALMED DOWN...
OH MY...
IS THAT SO?
...YEAH. OUR MOM IS, LIKE, SUPER BUSY WITH HER BEAUTICIAN JOB, AND WE DON'T HAVE A DAD...

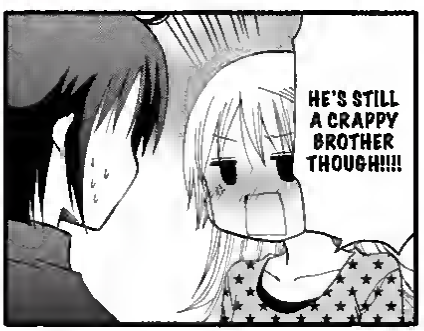


ALL FROM THE HEART



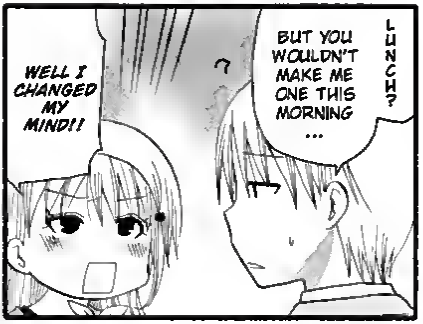
LIKE, HE SACRIFICED HIS OWN FREEDOMS TO LOOK AFTER ME!
SO DON'T CALL HIM UNRELI-ABLE!!
BUT HE'S NICE, AND HE'S RESPON-SIBLE, AND HE TAKES HIS WORK SERIOUS-LY!





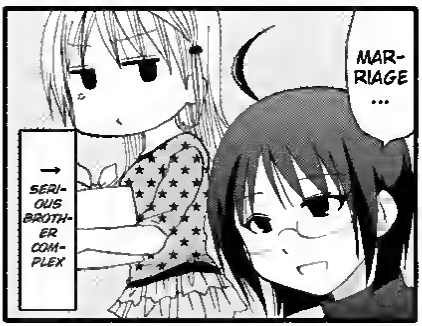
GOAL
LUNCH ROLLED AROUND, BUT YOU DIDN'T COME BACK TO YOUR DESK...
YEAH, A WHILE AGO.
ICHI-MIYA-SAN!
YOU MADE IT BACK TO THE OFFICE?
IT WAS A HALF DAY, FOR EXAMS!!
WAIT, SHOULDN'T YOU BE AT SCHOOL?
BUGGING PEOPLE AGAIN?
WHAT ARE YOU UP TO, TOUKO ...?
I DO HAVE GOOD REASON !!
...SO YOU CAME DOWN HERE FOR NO GOOD REASON AGAIN?
SO SHE DID COME TO DROP OFF LUNCH FOR HIM!! I KNEW IT!!
LUNCH!!
SAVIOR
I HATE TO THINK OF IT THIS WAY, BUT THIS IS RATHER TIRING ...
AHHH!
H-HOW DO I PUT THIS...
EEEK!
HE'S TOTALLY INSULTING ME BEHIND MY BACK ALL THE TIME, ISN'T HE!!?
MY HAT GOES OFF TO MIYOSHI-SAN AND HASEBE-SAN FOR DEALING WITH HER CONSISTENTLY...
N-NO !!
THAT'S AN INSULT!!
IT SIMPLY CAME UP THAT YOU CAN BE QUICK-TEMPERED—
NO ONE'S INSULTING YOU!
WH—
WHAT NOW ...?
FREEZE
KNOCK IT OFF, TOUKO!!

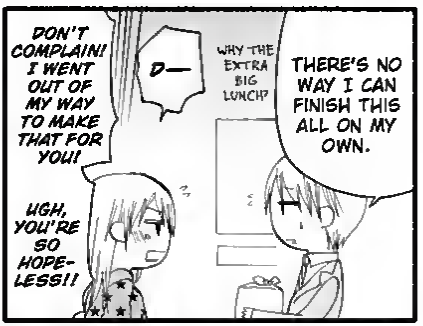
SORRY MY SISTER WAS A NUISANCE.
HOO BOY...
... D-DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
SHE'S NOT SO MUCH A NUISANCE AS...


LUNCH?
BUT YOU WOULDN'T MAKE ME ONE THIS MORNING ...
WELL I CHANGED MY MIND!!

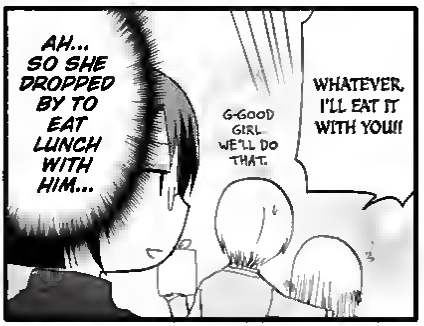
I'VE GOTTA LOOK OUT FOR TOUKO UNTIL SHE GETS MARRIED.
WELL
HA HA HA.
OH YEAH
TOUKO-SAN WAS BOASTING ABOUT HOW YOU GAVE UP YOUR OWN FREEDOMS TO RAISE HER.
AH ...
PLEASE DON'T BE UPSET WITH HER..

WHOA.
THIS IS HUGE!


MAR-RIAGE ...
→ SERI-OUS BROTH-ER COM-PLEX

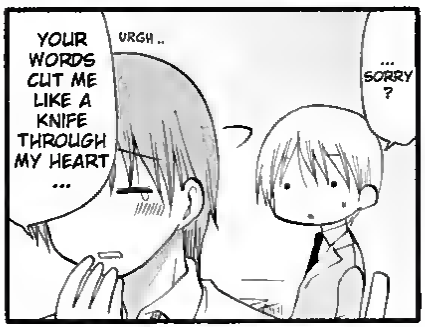

DON'T COMPLAIN! I WENT OUT OF MY WAY TO MAKE THAT FOR YOU!
D—
WHY THE EXTRA BIG LUNCH?
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN FINISH THIS ALL ON MY OWN.
UGH, YOU'RE SO HOPE-LESS!!

SH—
SHE'S NOT ENTIRELY WITHOUT HER GOOD POINTS, YOU KNOW...?
.....WILL THAT BE... POSSIBLE ...?
DESPITE HOW SHE SEEMS..

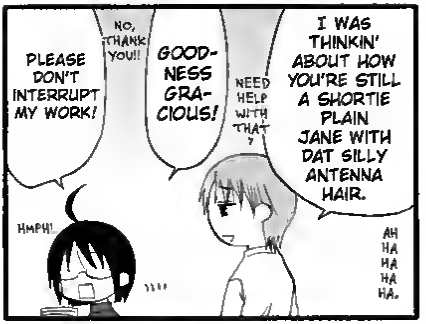

AH... SO SHE DROPPED BY TO EAT LUNCH WITH HIM...
G-GOOD GIRL. WE'LL DO THAT.
WHATEVER. I'LL EAT IT WITH YOU!!

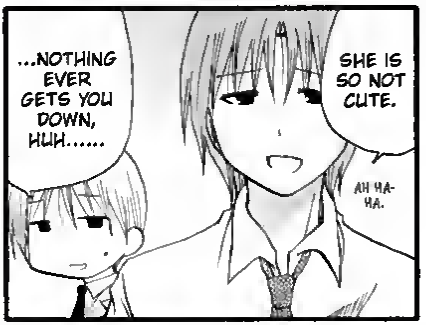
THIS IS THE GIRL IN QUESTION.
PLAIN
じぃ
GAZE
ぼ…
THE OTHER DAY, CHIHAYA-CHAN WARNED ME TO STAY AWAY FROM A GIRL...
...LIKE WE'RE RIVALS OR SOME-THING.
I'VE GOT IT...
I'VE GOT IT...
PLAIN
じぃ
!!!!
WHAT ARE YOU ON ABOUT?
PAT
ぺち
AH HA HA
YEAH, RIGHT.
HA HA HA HA HA HA!
WORK:15
SERVANT X SERVICE

THE PRICE OF PAIN

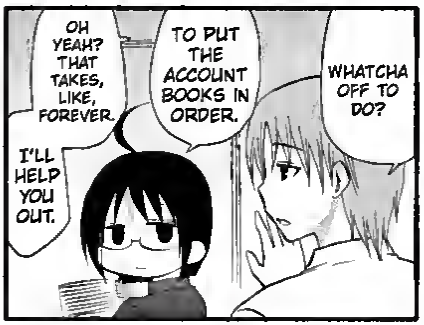


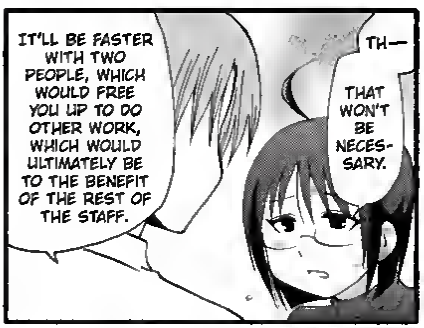
BIGGEST DOUBT


PLEASE DON'T INTERRUPT MY WORK!
NO, THANK YOU!!
GOOD-NESS GRA-CIOUS!
NEED HELP WITH THAT ?
I WAS THINKIN' ABOUT HOW YOU'RE STILL A SHORTIE PLAIN JANE WITH DAT SILLY ANTENNA HAIR.
HMPH!
AH HA HA HA HA.

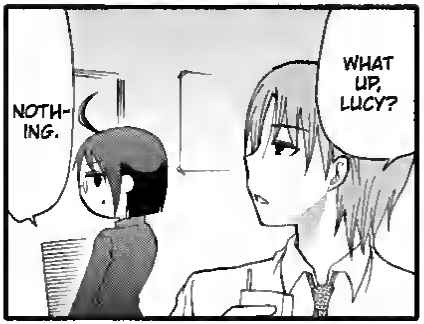


NARROWING ESCAPE ROUTE

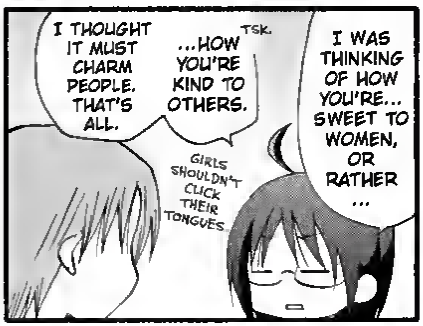



IT'LL BE FASTER WITH TWO PEOPLE, WHICH WOULD FREE YOU UP TO DO OTHER WORK, WHICH WOULD ULTIMATELY BE TO THE BENEFIT OF THE REST OF THE STAFF.
TH—
THAT WON'T BE NECES-SARY.

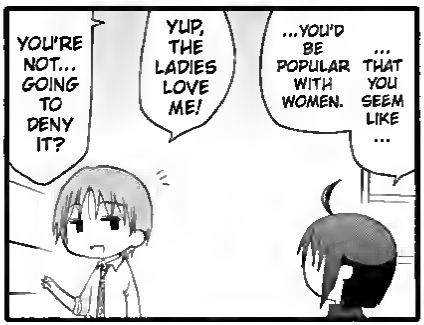
THOUGHTFULNESS



ENTHUSIASM DIFFERENCE

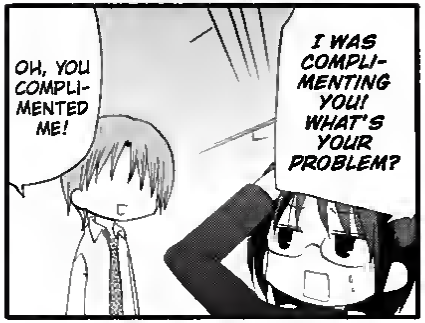

I THOUGHT IT MUST CHARM PEOPLE. THAT'S ALL.
TSK.
...HOW YOU'RE KIND TO OTHERS.
GIRLS SHOULDN'T CLICK THEIR TONGUES.
I WAS THINKING OF HOW YOU'RE... SWEET TO WOMEN, OR RATHER ...

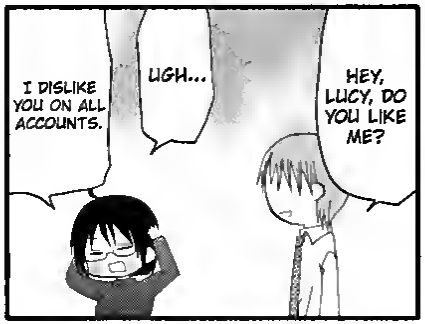
CAN'T GET ACROSS

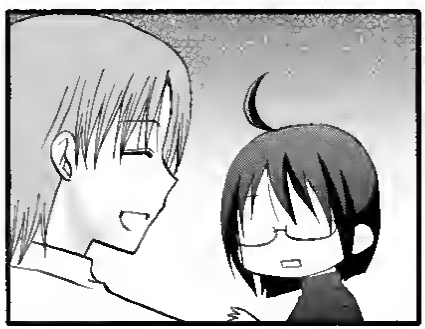


IT'S EXACTLY WHAT YOU THOUGHT

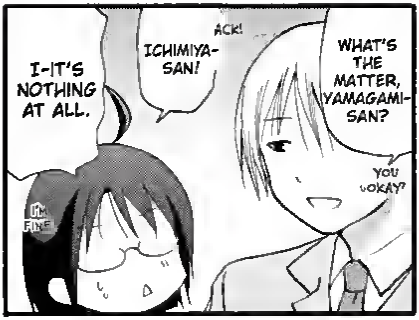
A SUDDEN SOMETHING







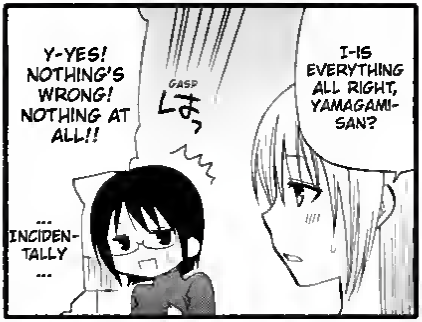
SAY & FLEE
CHOICE
WHOOPS
L—
LISTEN, HASEBE-SA—
YUP.
YOU AND ME. DATING.
D-DATING...
YOU FOLLOW?
R—
RIGHT...
NO MORE WORK TODAY.
IT'S JUST ABOUT CLOSING TIME.
GOOD JOB.
UH. UM...
WHAT-CHA THINK?
THANKS FOR YOUR HELP
OKAY...
.....
LATERS!
SEE YOU TOMORROW
I—
I'D RATHER NOT...
WH—
WHAT JUST HAPPENED!?
HE'S BRUSHING IT RIGHT OFF!
AH HA HA!
REJECTED!

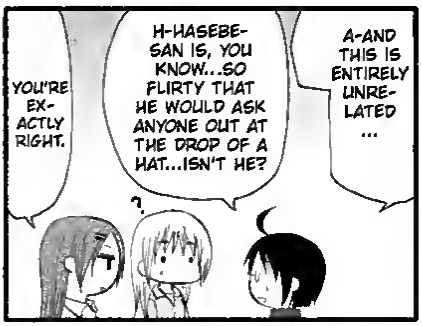


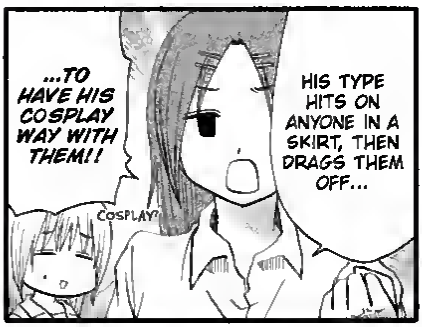
SERVANT × SERVICE

WORK:16

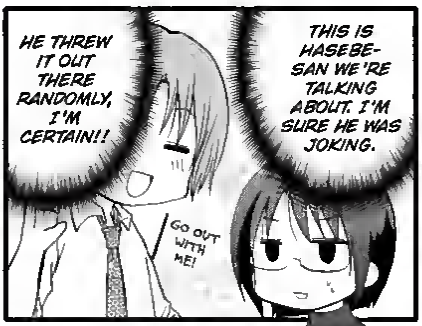
THIS IS THE GUY WHO...①



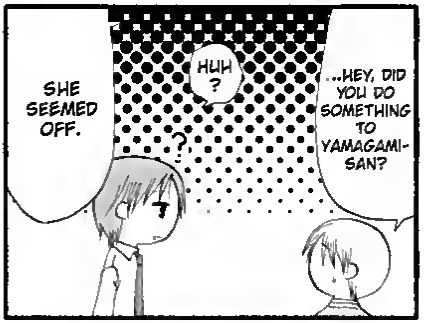

YOU'RE EXACTLY RIGHT.
H-HASEBE-SAN IS, YOU KNOW...SO FLIRTY THAT HE WOULD ASK ANYONE OUT AT THE DROP OF A HAT...ISN'T HE?
A-AND THIS IS ENTIRELY UNRELATED ...

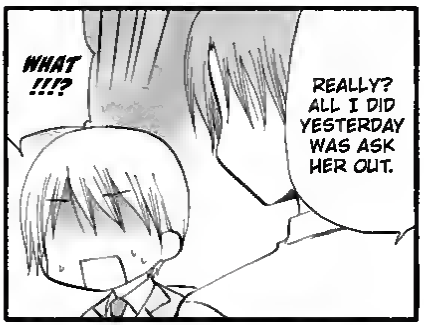


TYPICAL HASEBE

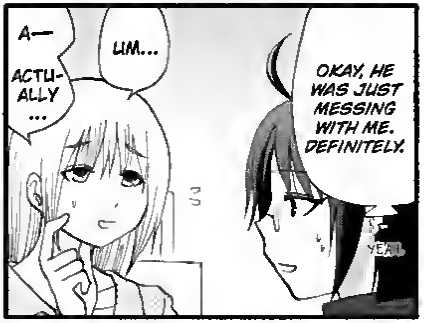


WEL-COME BACK.
I'M BA-ACK!


SHE SEEMED OFF.
HUH?
..HEY, DID YOU DO SOMETHING TO YAMAGAMI-SAN?

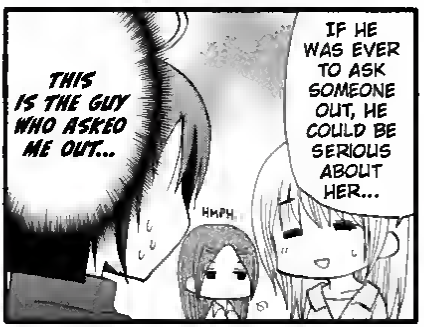

WHAT !!!?
REALLY? ALL I DID YESTERDAY WAS ASK HER OUT.

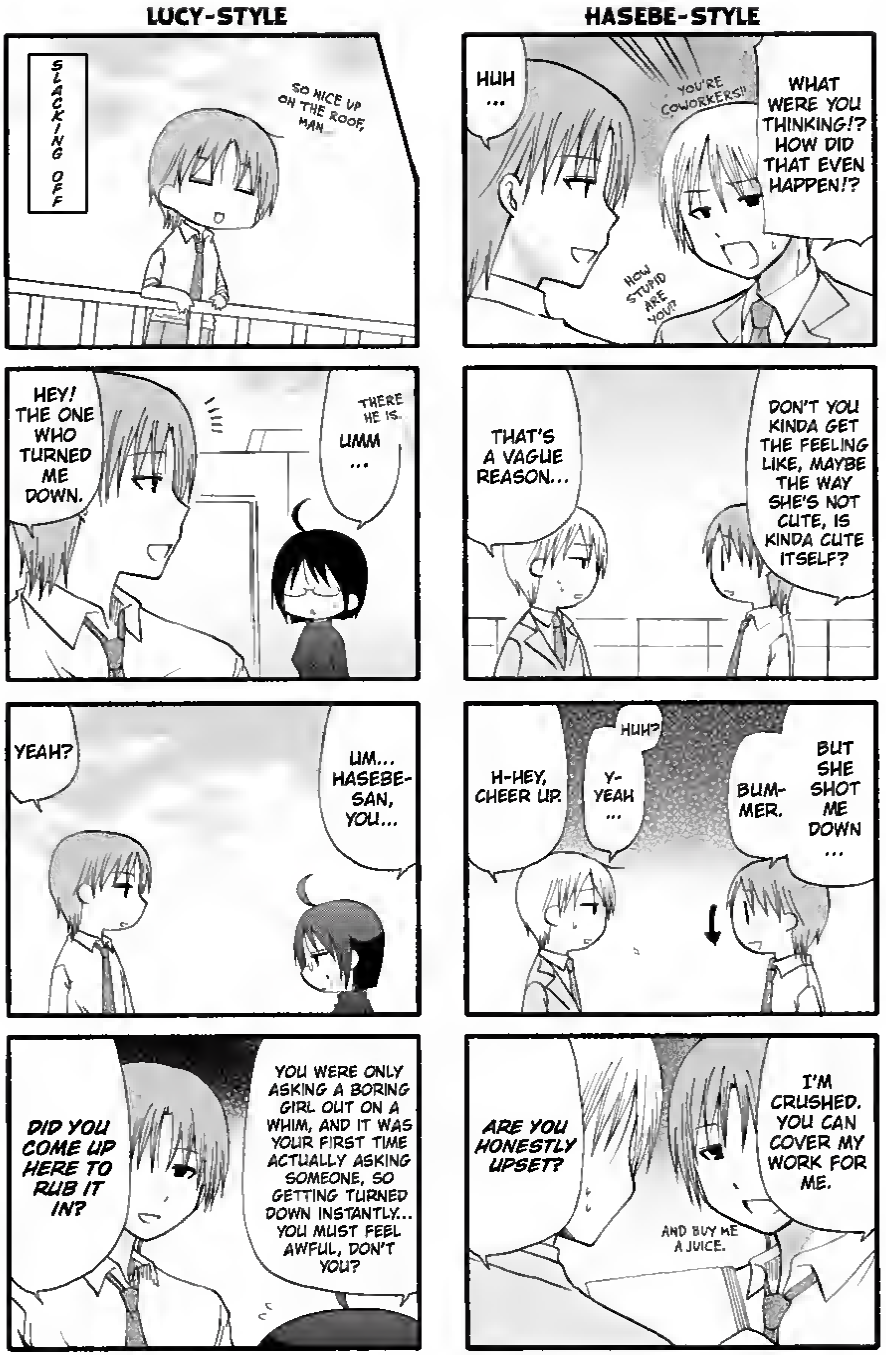
UH, IT WAS SOMETHING ENOUGH FROM THE POINT WHEN YOU ASKED HER OUT!!
BUT SHE TURNED ME DOWN, SO, YOU KNOW. IT WAS NOTHING.


A— ACTU-ALLY ...
UM...
OKAY, HE WAS JUST MESSING WITH ME. DEFINITELY.
YEAH.

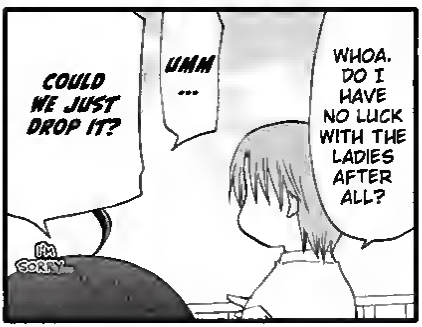
OH YEAH ...
SURELY THERE'S PLENTY OF WOMEN YOU COULD ASK OUT?
DO YOU NEED TO DO THIS, HASEBE-SAN?
THIS CAME UP WHEN I GAVE HIM MY E-MAIL ADDRESS.

AH HA-HA
...IS WHAT HE TOLD ME.
YOU KNOW, I'VE NEVER ACTUALLY ASKED ANYBODY OUT MYSELF!
SHAMELESS
SHAMELESS

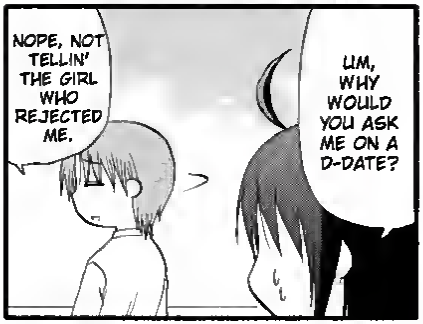

THIS IS THE GUY WHO ASKED ME OUT...
HMPH.
IF HE WAS EVER TO ASK SOMEONE OUT, HE COULD BE SERIOUS ABOUT HER...

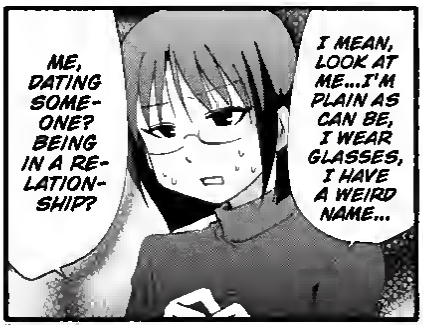

LUCY-STYLE
HASEBE-STYLE
SLACKING OFF
SO NICE UP ON THE ROOF, MAN...
HUH...
YOU'RE COWORKERS!!
WHAT WERE YOU THINKING!? HOW DID THAT EVEN HAPPEN!?
HOW STUPID ARE YOU!?
HEY! THE ONE WHO TURNED ME DOWN.
THERE HE IS.
UMM...
THAT'S A VAGUE REASON...
DON'T YOU KINDA GET THE FEELING LIKE, MAYBE THE WAY SHE'S NOT CUTE, IS KINDA CUTE ITSELF?
YEAH?
UM... HASEBE-SAN, YOU...
H-HEY, CHEER UP.
HUH?
Y-YEAH...
BUM-MER.
BUT SHE SHOT ME DOWN...
DID YOU COME UP HERE TO RUB IT IN?
YOU WERE ONLY ASKING A BORING GIRL OUT ON A WHIM, AND IT WAS YOUR FIRST TIME ACTUALLY ASKING SOMEONE, SO GETTING TURNED DOWN INSTANTLY... YOU MUST FEEL AWFUL, DON'T YOU?
ARE YOU HONESTLY UPSET?
I'M CRUSHED. YOU CAN COVER MY WORK FOR ME.
AND BUY ME A JUICE.

NOT GETTING ANY CLOSER

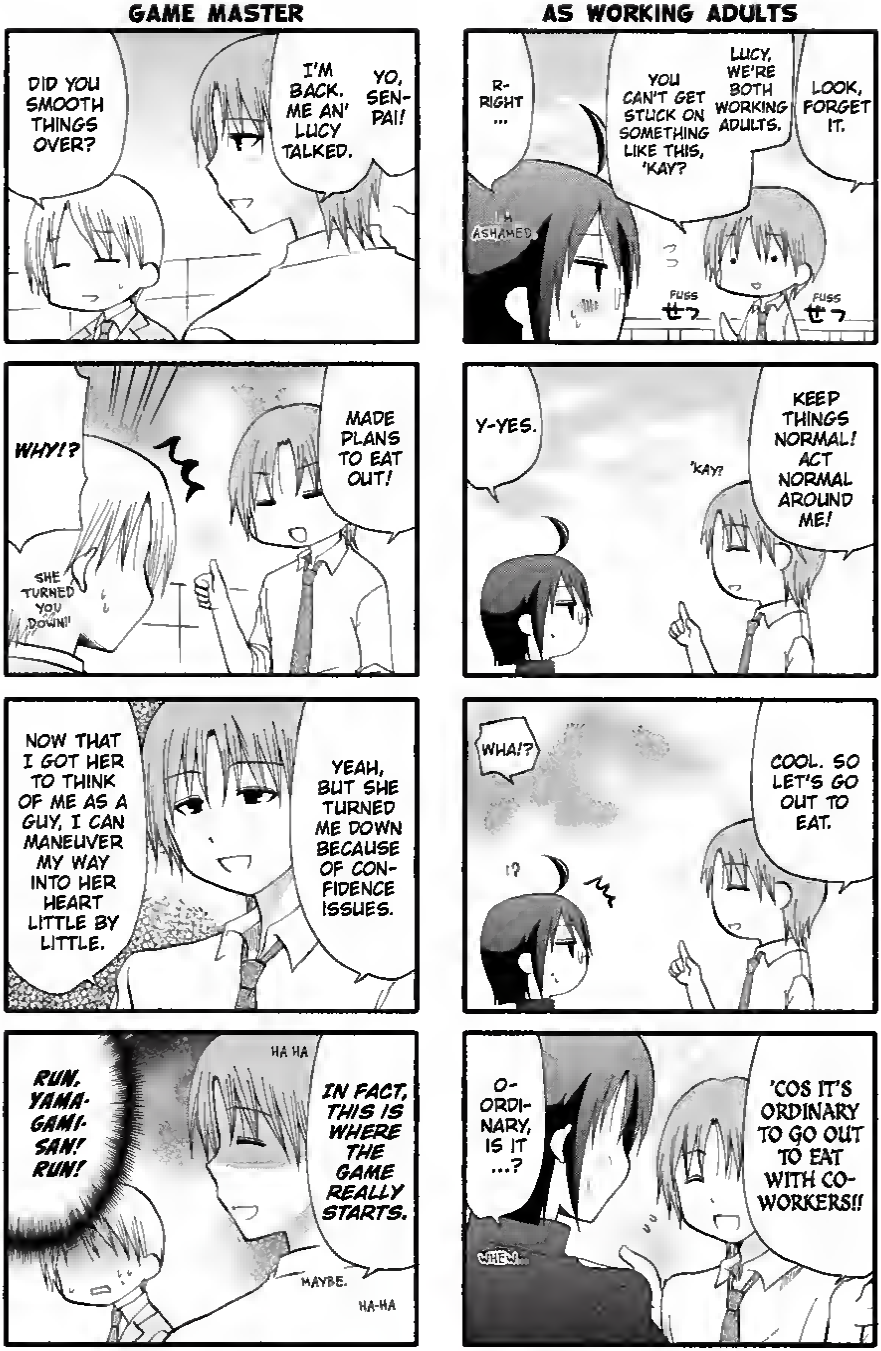


PERFECT LIFE MANAGEMENT





※ YAMAGAMI-SAN'S NAME IS HELLA LONG


GAME MASTER
AS WORKING ADULTS
DID YOU SMOOTH THINGS OVER?
I'M BACK. ME AN' LUCY TALKED.
YO, SEN-PAI!
R-RIGHT ...
I'M ASHAMED.
YOU CAN'T GET STUCK ON SOMETHING LIKE THIS, 'KAY?
LUCY, WE'RE BOTH WORKING ADULTS.
LOOK, FORGET IT.
FUSS
FUSS
WHY!?
SHE TURNED YOU DOWN!!
MADE PLANS TO EAT OUT!
Y-YES.
'KAY?
KEEP THINGS NORMAL! ACT NORMAL AROUND ME!
NOW THAT I GOT HER TO THINK OF ME AS A GUY, I CAN MANEUVER MY WAY INTO HER HEART LITTLE BY LITTLE.
YEAH, BUT SHE TURNED ME DOWN BECAUSE OF CONFIDENCE ISSUES.
WHA!?
!?
COOL. SO LET'S GO OUT TO EAT.
RUN, YAMA-GAMI-SAN! RUN!
HA HA
IN FACT, THIS IS WHERE THE GAME REALLY STARTS.
MAYBE.
HA-HA
O-ORDI-NARY, IS IT ...?
WHEW.
'COS IT'S ORDINARY TO GO OUT TO EAT WITH CO-WORKERS!!

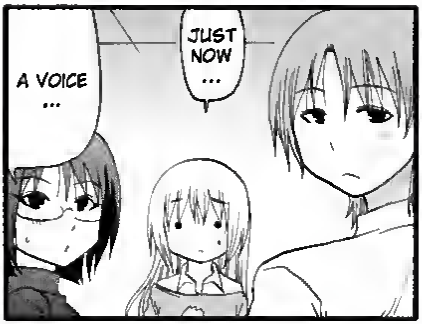
EATING OUT TOGETHER...
...IS THE PERFECT TIME TO HIT ON A WOMAN.
...GO OUT TO EAT.
IN WHICH LUCY (ETC.) YAMAGAMI AND YUTAKA HASEBE...
I GOTCHA.
YOU'RE NOT PAYING FOR ME!!
WE'RE SPLITTING THE TAB.
MY FIRST TASTE OF PORK IN A MONTH...
MY GOD...
WHAT IS IT!!? IS SOMETHING THE MATTER!!?
WH...
HUH?

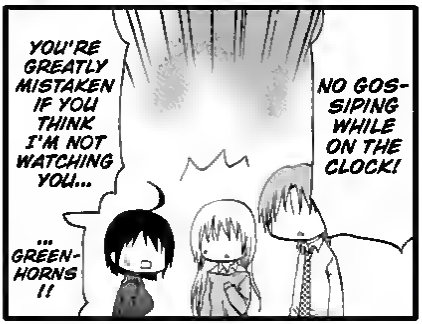
FWOO
びゅ
HUH?
BUTTON UP YOUR JACKET.
THAT'LL HELP
YUP.
CHILLY TODAY, ISN'T IT?
WHAT, THE CHEST IS SO TIGHT THAT SHE CAN'T BUTTON UP!!!?
SHE WON'T BUTTON UP?
I-IT'S NOT THAT COLD!!

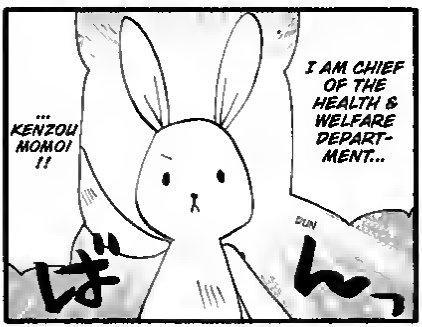
Y-YOU HAVEN'T, HAVE YOU?
...I'VE NEVER ACTUALLY MET THE HEALTH & WELFARE DEPARTMENT CHIEF.
OKAY.
HEY, THIS NEEDS THE CHIEF'S STAMP HERE.
WHAT KIND OF PERSON IS HE?
HMM?
I'VE JUST BEEN USING THE CHIEF'S STAMP MYSELF AS NECESSARY THUS FAR, AND...
...NOW THAT YOU BRING IT UP ...
CHIEF'S STAMP
SERVANT X SERVICE
WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AWAY?
WORK:17

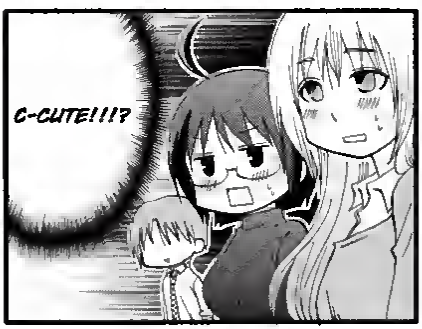
PRETTY MUCH RIGHT THERE
HUH. NEVER SEEN HIM.
AND NEVER CARED
THE BOSS?
YES...?
...OH! THAT REMINDS ME...
"...ABSOLUTELY DO NOT PUT HER THROUGH TO THE BOSS."
HUUUH.
ICHIMIYA-SAN TOLD ME, "IF TOUKO ASKS TO SEE YOUR MANAGER...
AWW, WHAT'RE YOU STARING AT ME FOR?
STARE
PERHAPS HE'S NEVER AT HIS DESK BECAUSE HE'S ALWAYS LOLLY-GAGGING ABOUT?
ACTUALLY, RIGHT THERE
H—
HAS IT?
HONESTLY, THIS HAS BEEN ON MY MIND FOR SOME TIME!
WHEN I WENT TO GET MY LETTER OF APPOINTMENT FROM HIM, IT WAS AT HIS DESK, BUT HE WASN'T.
CHIEF
WHA!?
YOU SAW HIM THEN.
.....
IN WHAT WAY!?
IN A WAY.

THE CHIEF APPEARS!

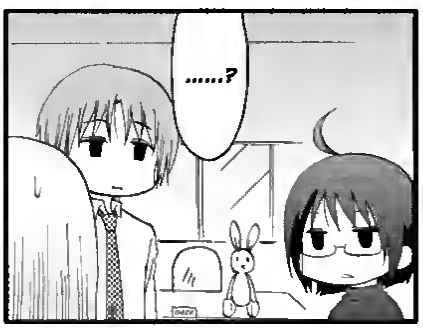


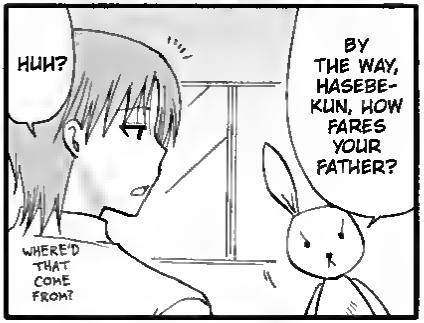


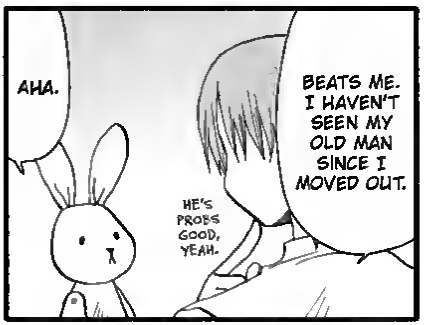


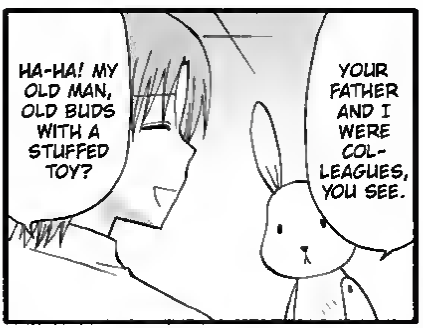


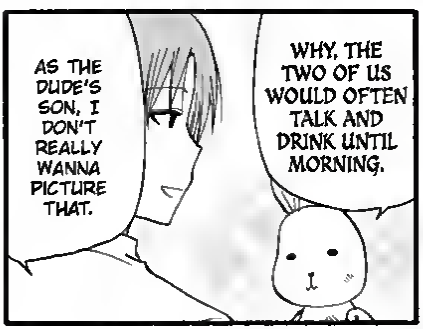
SPEAK OF THE DEVIL

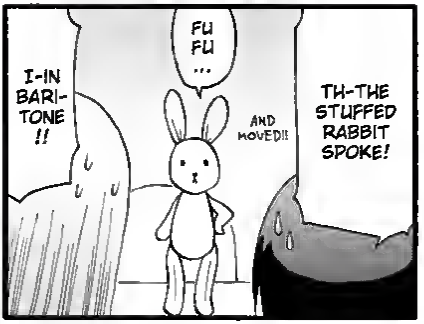


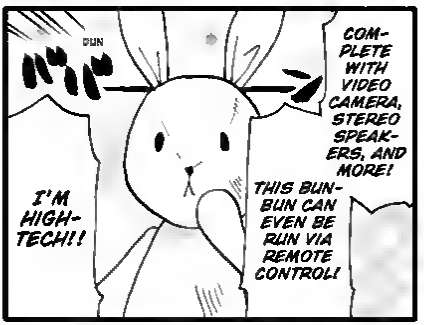

HUH?
BY THE WAY, HASEBE-KUN, HOW FARES YOUR FATHER?
WHERE'D THAT COME FROM?


AHA.
BEATS ME. I HAVEN'T SEEN MY OLD MAN SINCE I MOVED OUT.
HE'S PROBS GOOD, YEAH.

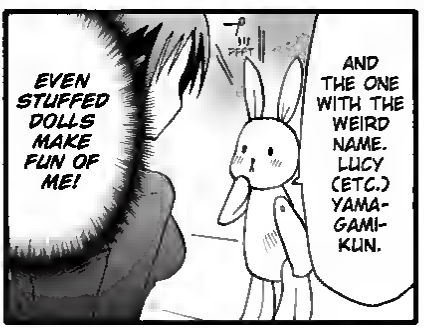

HA-HA! MY OLD MAN, OLD BUDS WITH A STUFFED TOY?
YOUR FATHER AND I WERE COL-LEAGUES, YOU SEE.


AS THE DUDE'S SON, I DON'T REALLY WANNA PICTURE THAT.
WHY, THE TWO OF US WOULD OFTEN TALK AND DRINK UNTIL MORNING.

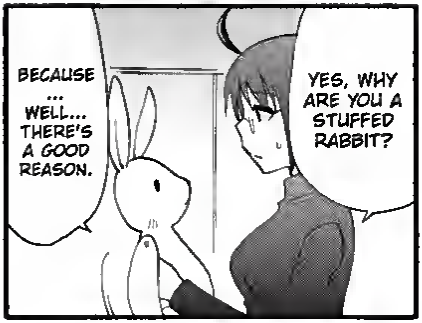

I-IN BARI-TONE !!
FU FU ...
AND MOVED!!
TH-THE STUFFED RABBIT SPOKE!

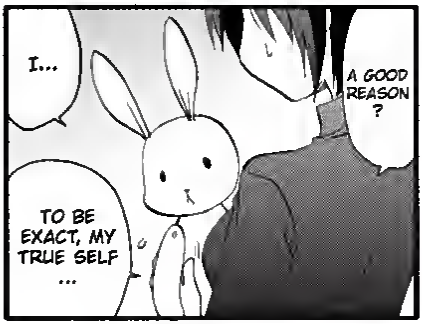

I'M HIGH-TECH!!
BUN
COM-PLETE WITH VIDEO CAMERA, STEREO SPEAK-ERS, AND MORE!
THIS BUN-BUN CAN EVEN BE RUN VIA REMOTE CONTROL!

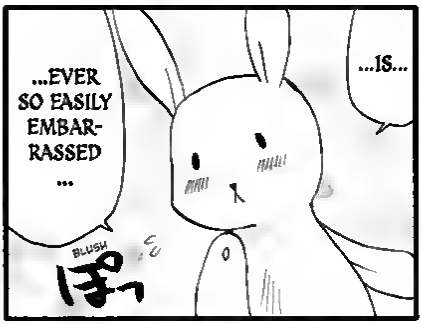
SAYA MIYO-SHI-KUN.
YUTAKA HASEBE-KUN.
I'VE BEEN WATCHING ALL OF YOU.

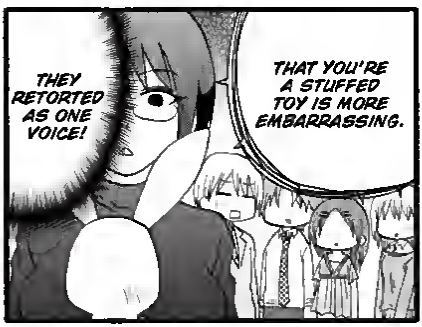

EVEN STUFFED DOLLS MAKE FUN OF ME!
PFFT
AND THE ONE WITH THE WEIRD NAME. LUCY (ETC.) YAMA-GAMI-KUN.

WHAT SAY YOU?

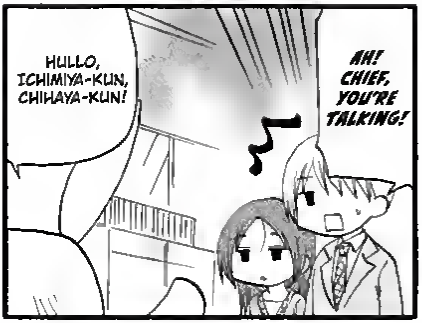


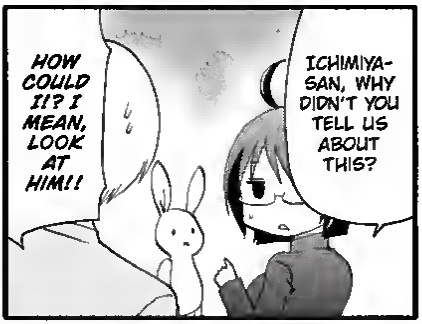


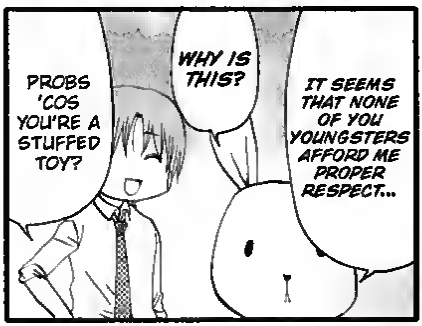




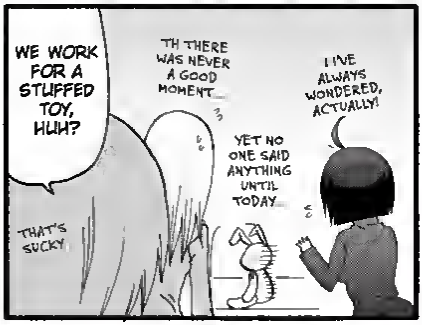
NOW YOU GET IT

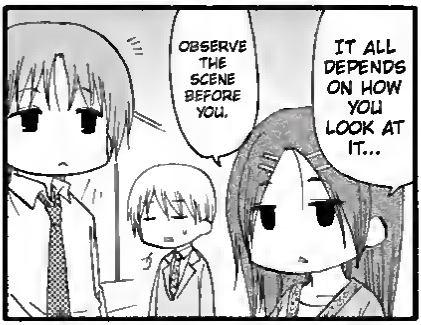


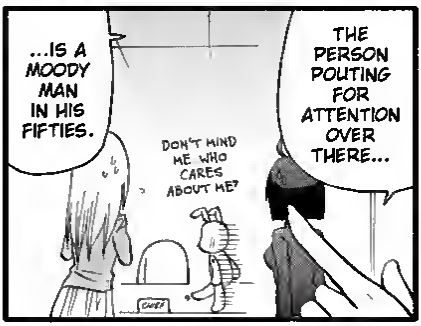




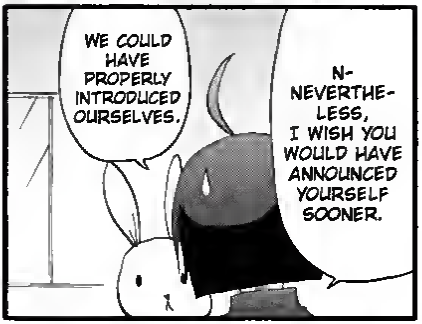
DEPENDS ON HOW YOU LOOK AT IT

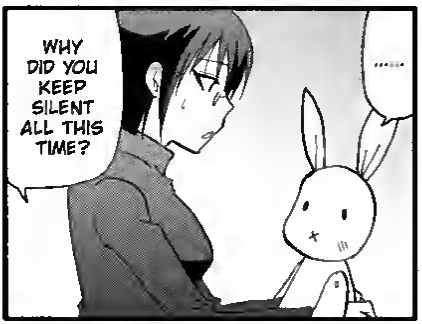

WE WORK FOR A STUFFED TOY, HUH?
TH THERE WAS NEVER A GOOD MOMENT...
I'VE ALWAYS WONDERED, ACTUALLY!
YET NO ONE SAID ANYTHING UNTIL TODAY...
THAT'S SUCKY.

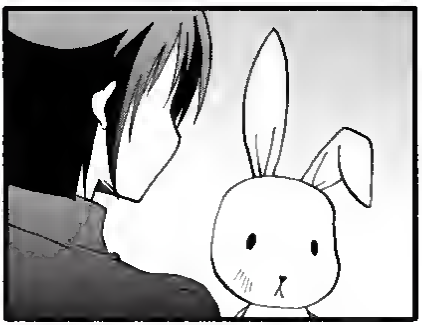


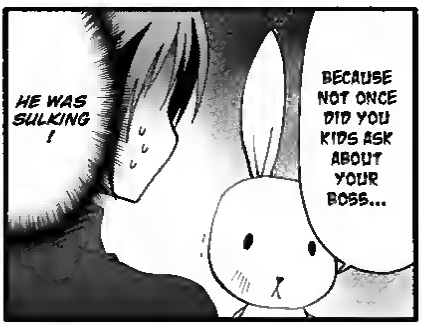


THE CHIEF'S FEELINGS

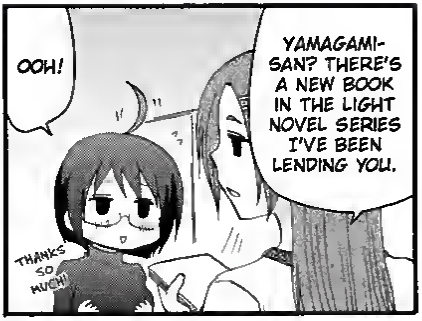








...HASEBE-SAN HAS BEEN TAKING ME OUT TO DINNER.
BUT LATELY...
NEW BOOK...

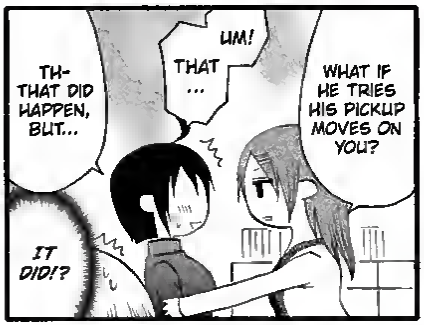

OOH!
YAMAGAMI-SAN? THERE'S A NEW BOOK IN THE LIGHT NOVEL SERIES I'VE BEEN LENDING YOU.
THANKS SO MUCH!

H-HASEBE-SAN HAS BEEN TAKING ME OUT T—
EH?
...COME AGAIN?

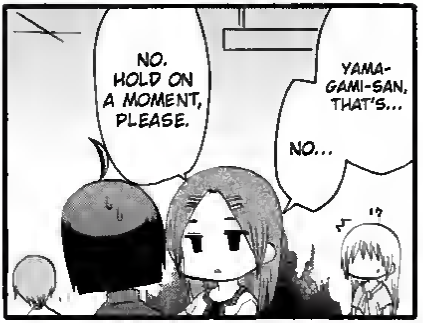
YES!
OH.
OOH, AHH...
STILL SPENDING YOUR EVENINGS LOST IN THE PAGES OF A BOOK?

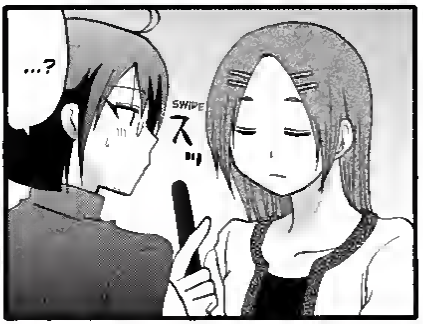
Y-Y-Y-YOU'RE SCARING ME, CHIHAYA-SAN...
HASE...
AGAIN.
WORK:18
SERVANT X SERVICE

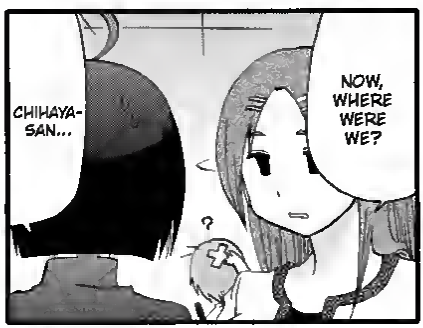
WITH CONFIDENCE



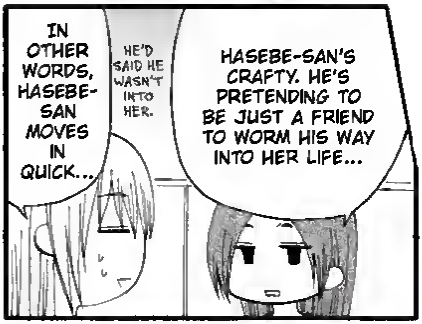
PRIORITIES

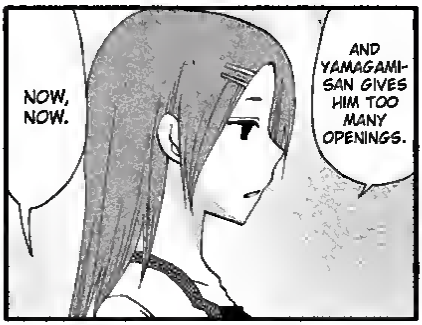


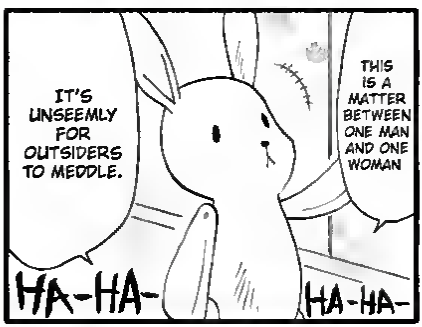


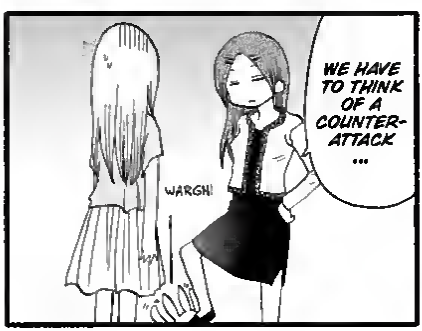


CHIHAYA'S ENEMY

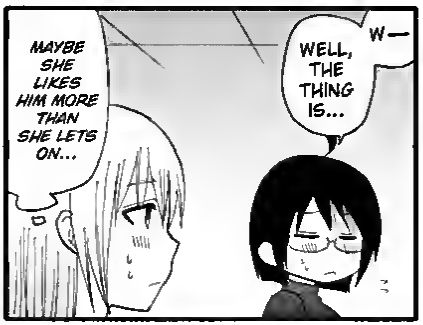

IN OTHER WORDS, HASEBE-SAN MOVES IN QUICK...
HE'D SAID HE WASN'T INTO HER.
HASEBE-SAN'S CRAFTY. HE'S PRETENDING TO BE JUST A FRIEND TO WORM HIS WAY INTO HER LIFE...

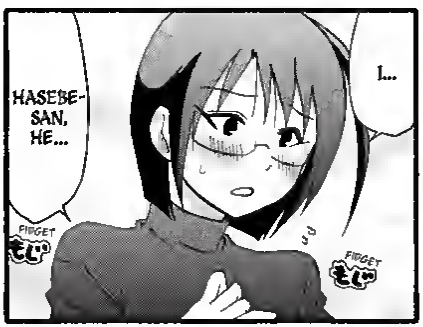


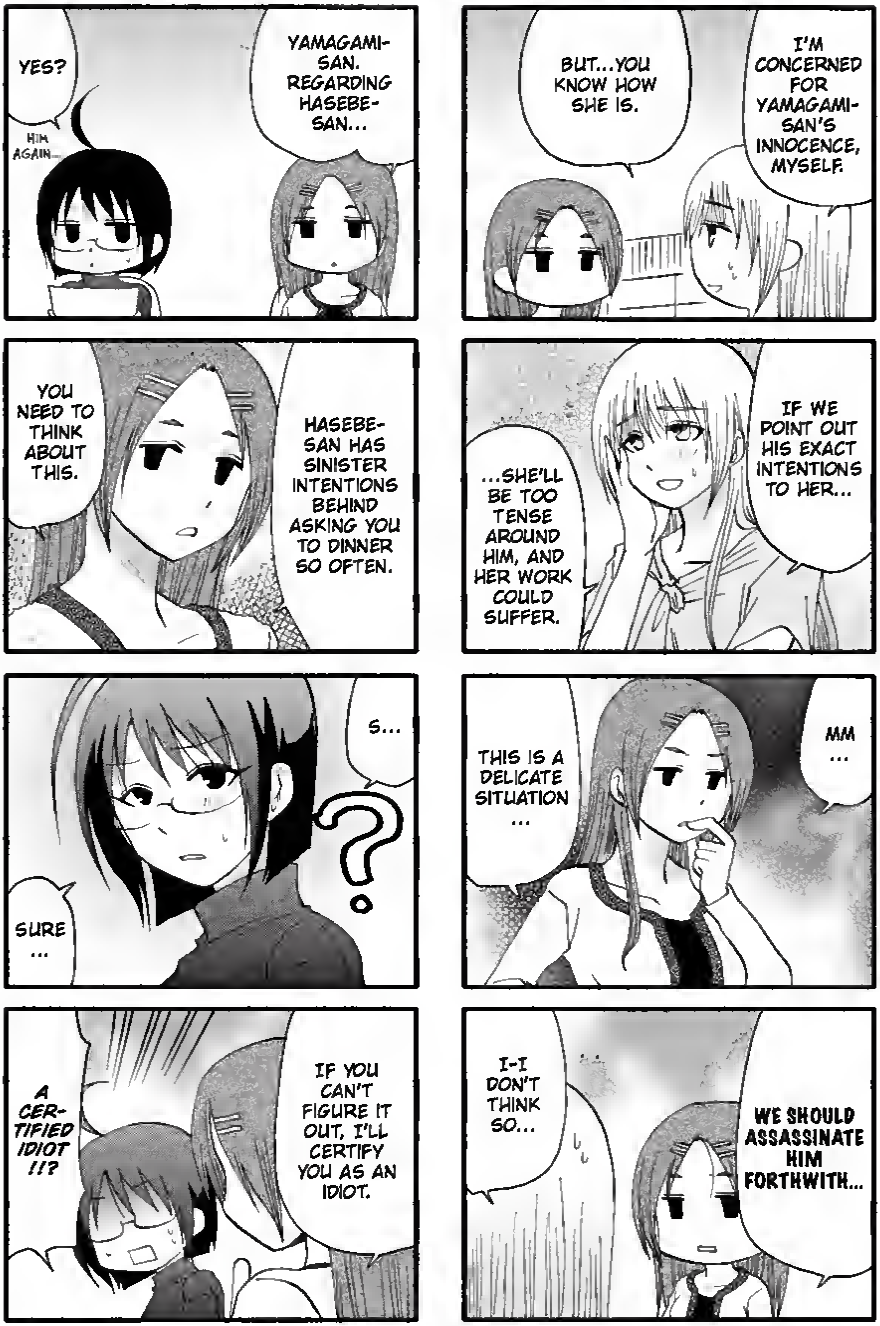




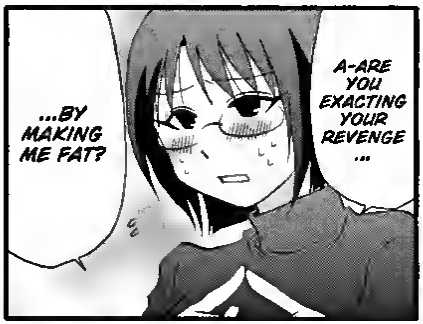
CAN'T FIGHT INSTINCT





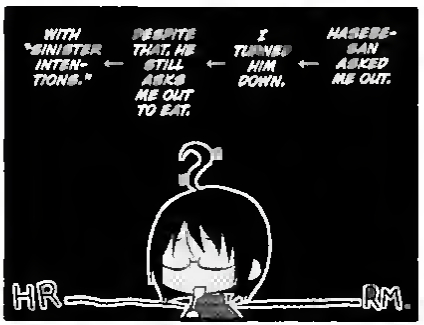

THINK ABOUT IT
YES?
HIM AGAIN...
YAMAGAMI-SAN. REGARDING HASEBE-SAN...
YOU NEED TO THINK ABOUT THIS.
HASEBE-SAN HAS SINISTER INTENTIONS BEHIND ASKING YOU TO DINNER SO OFTEN.
S...
?
SURE ...
A CER-TIFIED IDIOT !!?
IF YOU CAN'T FIGURE IT OUT, I'LL CERTIFY YOU AS AN IDIOT.
THE SIMPLEST SOLUTION?
BUT...YOU KNOW HOW SHE IS.
I'M CONCERNED FOR YAMAGAMI-SAN'S INNOCENCE, MYSELF.
...SHE'LL BE TOO TENSE AROUND HIM, AND HER WORK COULD SUFFER.
IF WE POINT OUT HIS EXACT INTENTIONS TO HER...
THIS IS A DELICATE SITUATION ...
MM ...
I-I DON'T THINK SO...
WE SHOULD ASSASSINATE HIM FORTHWITH...

FOUND AN ANSWER!

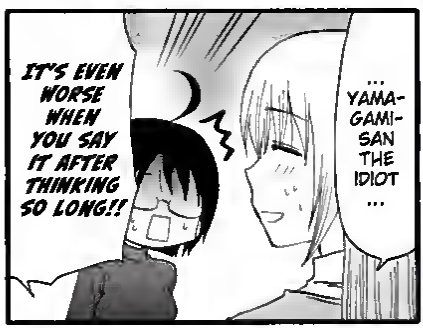


PONDERING

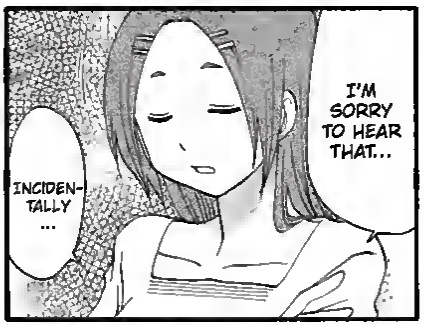
SINISTER INTEN-TIONS ...
IF I CAN'T FIGURE IT OUT, I'LL BE A CERTIFIED IDIOT...
...LIKE, THIS PEN CAME FLYING AT MY HEAD OUT OF NOWHERE...
SO TODAY...
OUT TO EAT

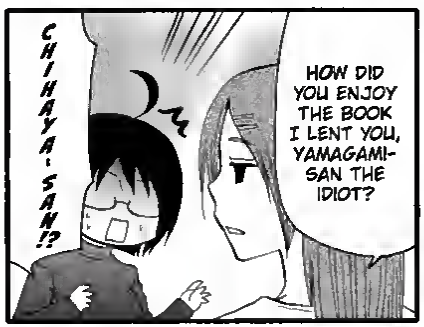


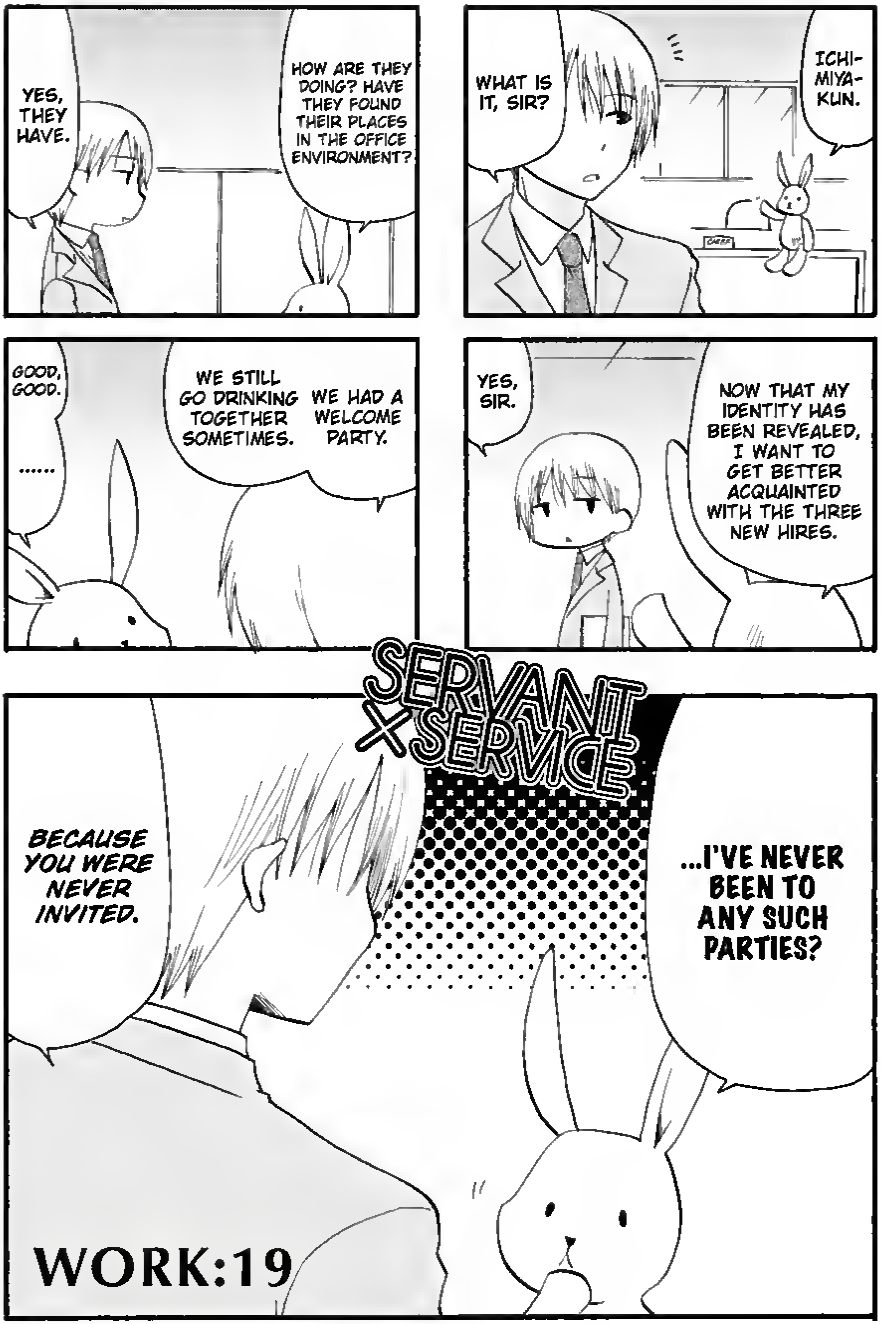
YAMAGAMI-SAN THE IDIOT



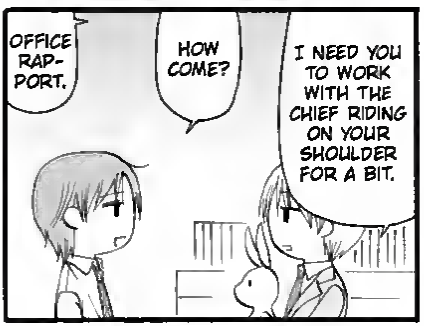
CERTIFIED IDIOT



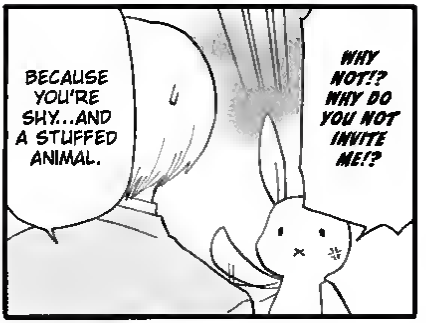


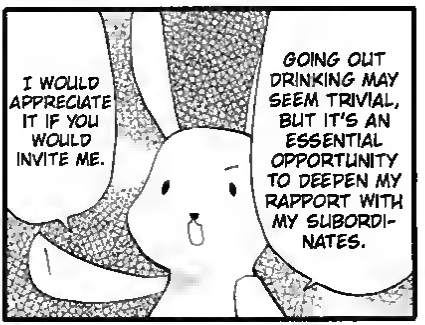

ICHI-MIYA-KUN.
WHAT IS IT, SIR?
HOW ARE THEY DOING? HAVE THEY FOUND THEIR PLACES IN THE OFFICE ENVIRONMENT?
YES, THEY HAVE.
NOW THAT MY IDENTITY HAS BEEN REVEALED, I WANT TO GET BETTER ACQUAINTED WITH THE THREE NEW HIRES.
YES, SIR.
WE HAD A WELCOME PARTY.
WE STILL GO DRINKING TOGETHER SOMETIMES.
.....
GOOD, GOOD.
SERVANT × SERVICE
...I'VE NEVER BEEN TO ANY SUCH PARTIES?
BECAUSE YOU WERE NEVER INVITED.
WORK:19

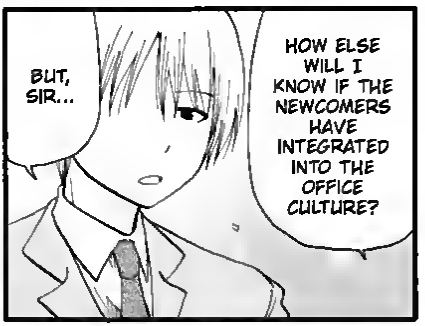
BETTER PULL OUT ALL THE STOPS

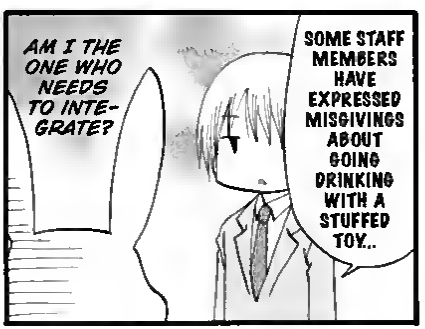


OFFICE CULTURE

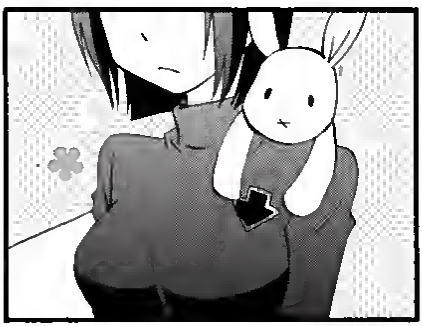



I WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF YOU WOULD INVITE ME.
GOING OUT DRINKING MAY SEEM TRIVIAL, BUT IT'S AN ESSENTIAL OPPORTUNITY TO DEEPEN MY RAPPORT WITH MY SUBORDI-NATES.

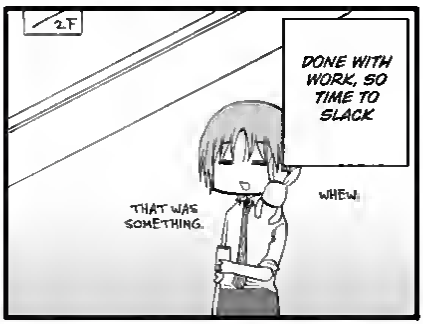



AM I THE ONE WHO NEEDS TO INTE-GRATE?
SOME STAFF MEMBERS HAVE EXPRESSED MISGIVINGS ABOUT GOING DRINKING WITH A STUFFED TOY...

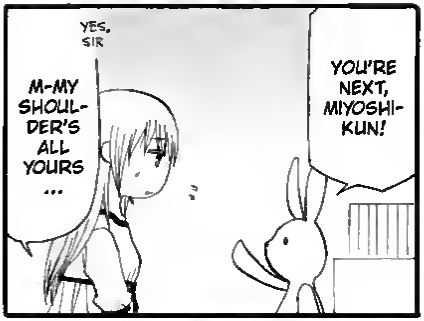
PROBLEM WITH A NEWBIE

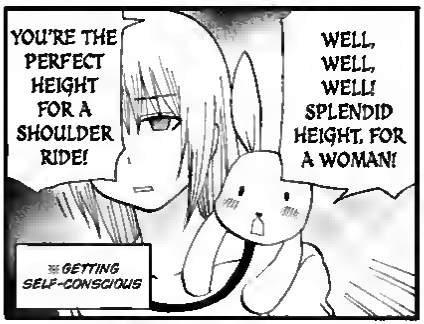


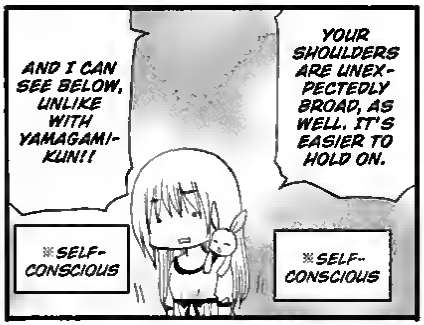
LESSONS FROM A NEWBIE

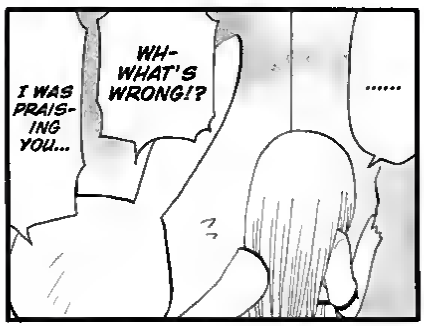


PRAISE FOR A NEWBIE

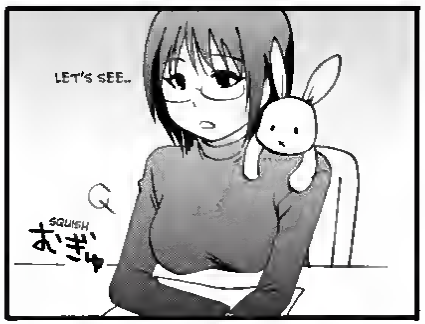


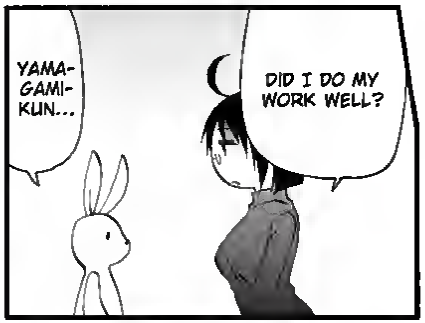


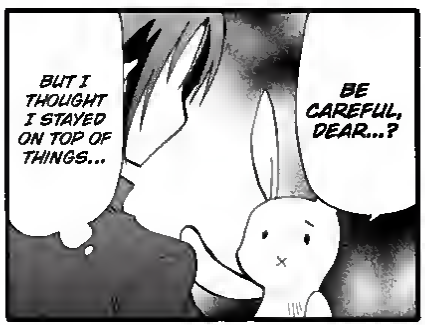

AND I CAN SEE BELOW, UNLIKE WITH YAMAGAMI-KUN!!
※SELF-CONSCIOUS
YOUR SHOULDERS ARE UNEXPECTEDLY BROAD, AS WELL. IT'S EASIER TO HOLD ON.
※SELF-CONSCIOUS



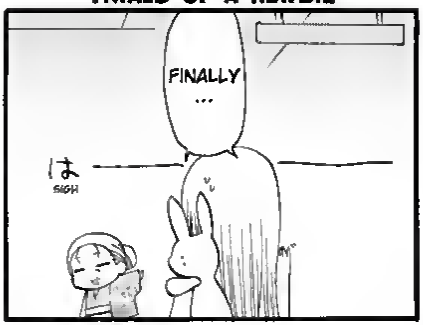
CONCERN FOR A NEWBIE

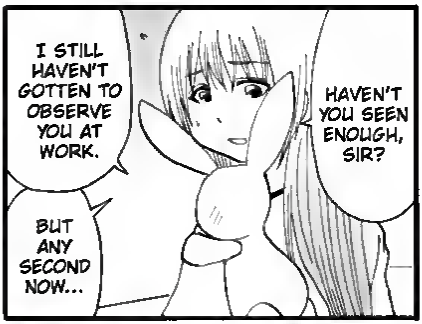


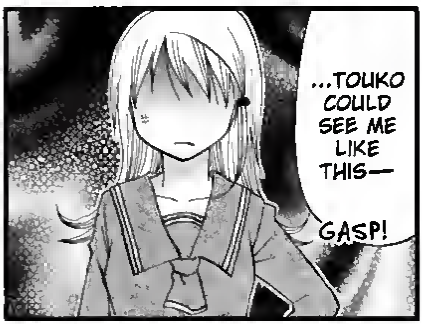


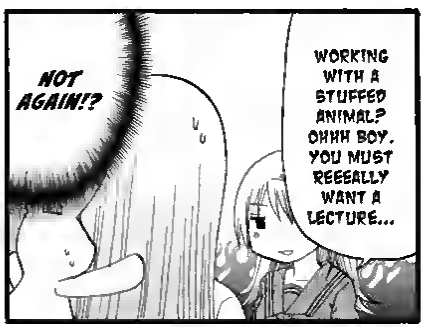


TRIALS OF A NEWBIE

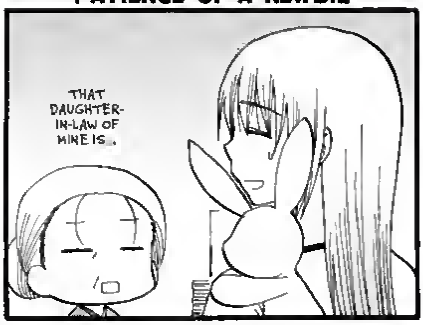


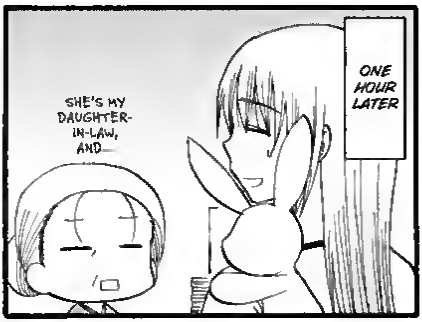


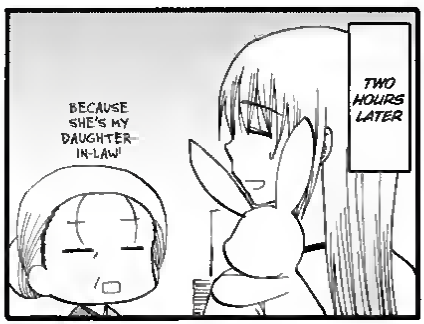


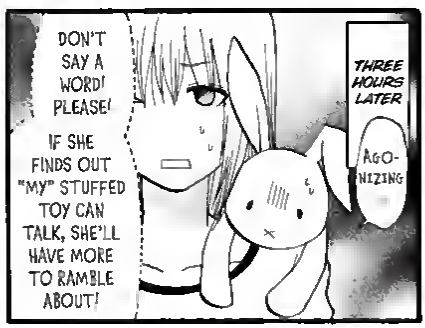


PATIENCE OF A NEWBIE

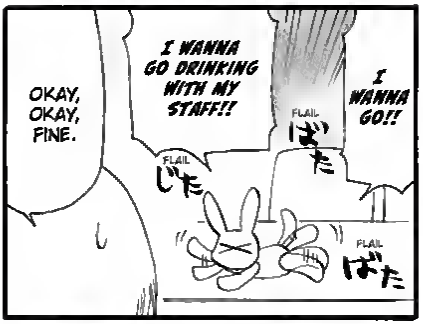


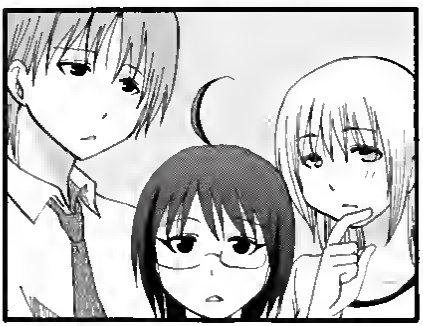




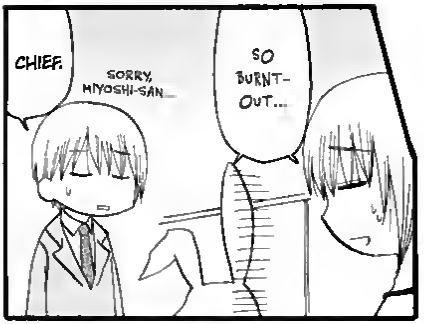

THREE HOURS LATER
AGO-NIZING
DON'T SAY A WORD! PLEASE!
IF SHE FINDS OUT "MY" STUFFED TOY CAN TALK, SHE'LL HAVE MORE TO RAMBLE ABOUT!

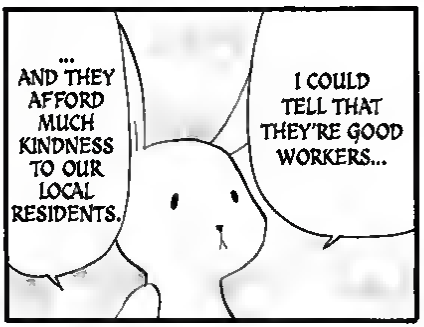
ANSWER FROM THE NEWBIES

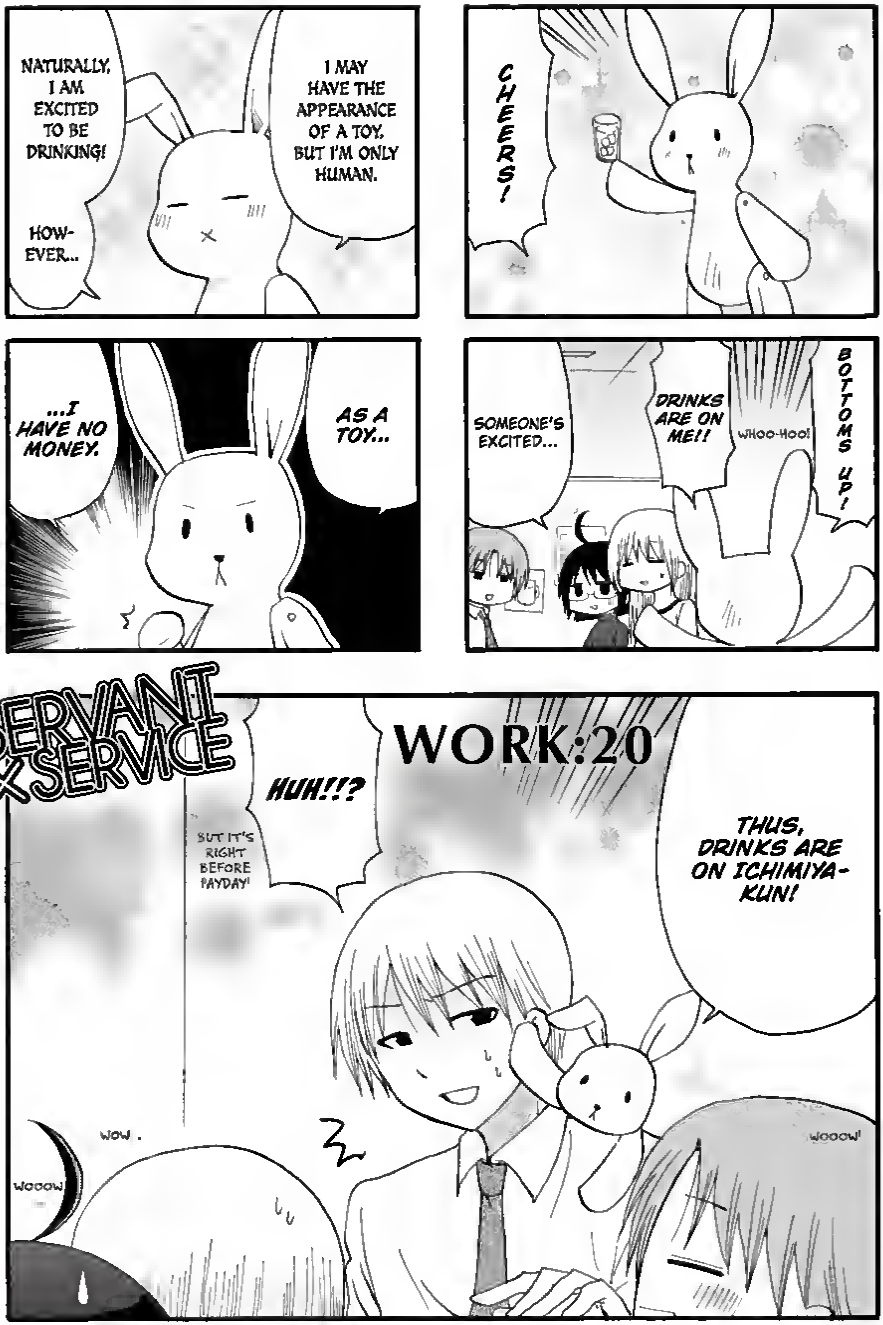




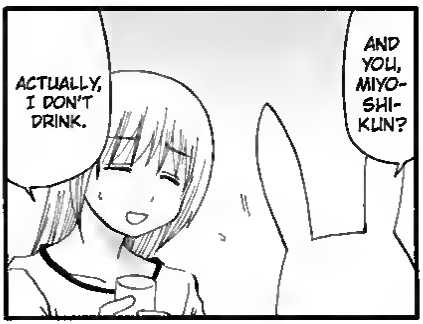
RAPPORT-BUILDING RESULTS



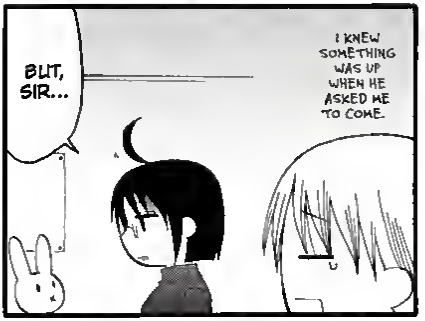


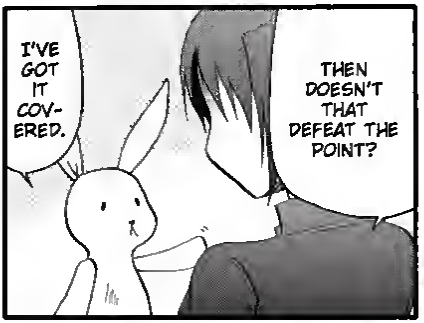

NATURALLY, I AM EXCITED TO BE DRINKING!
HOW-EVER...
I MAY HAVE THE APPEARANCE OF A TOY, BUT I'M ONLY HUMAN.
CHEERS!
...I HAVE NO MONEY.
AS A TOY...
SOMEONE'S EXCITED...
DRINKS ARE ON ME!!
Whoo-Hoo!
BOTTOMS UP!
SERVANT X SERVICE
WORK:20
HUH!!?
BUT IT'S RIGHT BEFORE PAYDAY!
THUS, DRINKS ARE ON ICHIMIYA-KUN!
WOW.
Woooow
Woooow

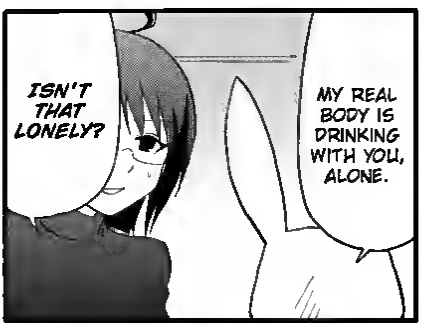
MY BOOZE



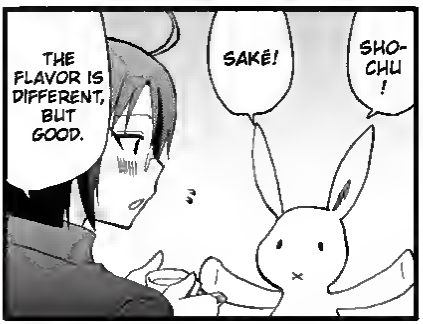
WANT TO DRINK TOGETHER

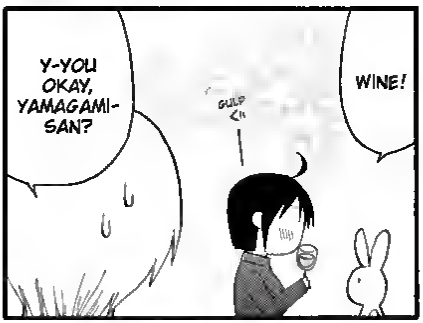




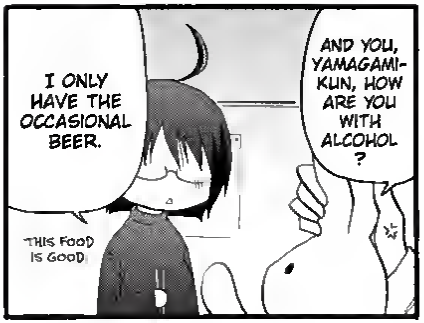


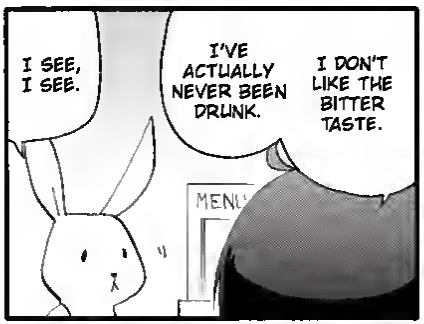
BAD FEELING



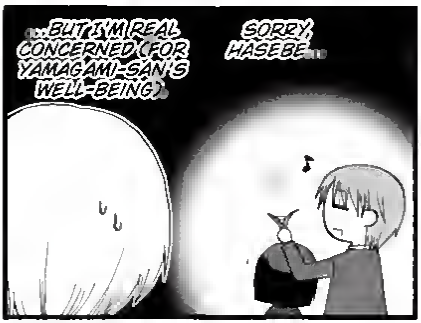


TRY EVERYTHING





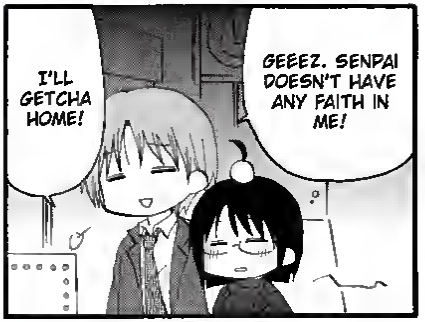
WON'T LET YOU GO

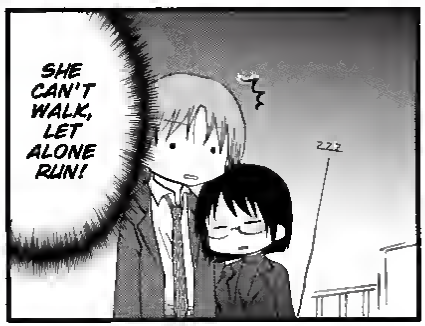


GROWING UNEASE

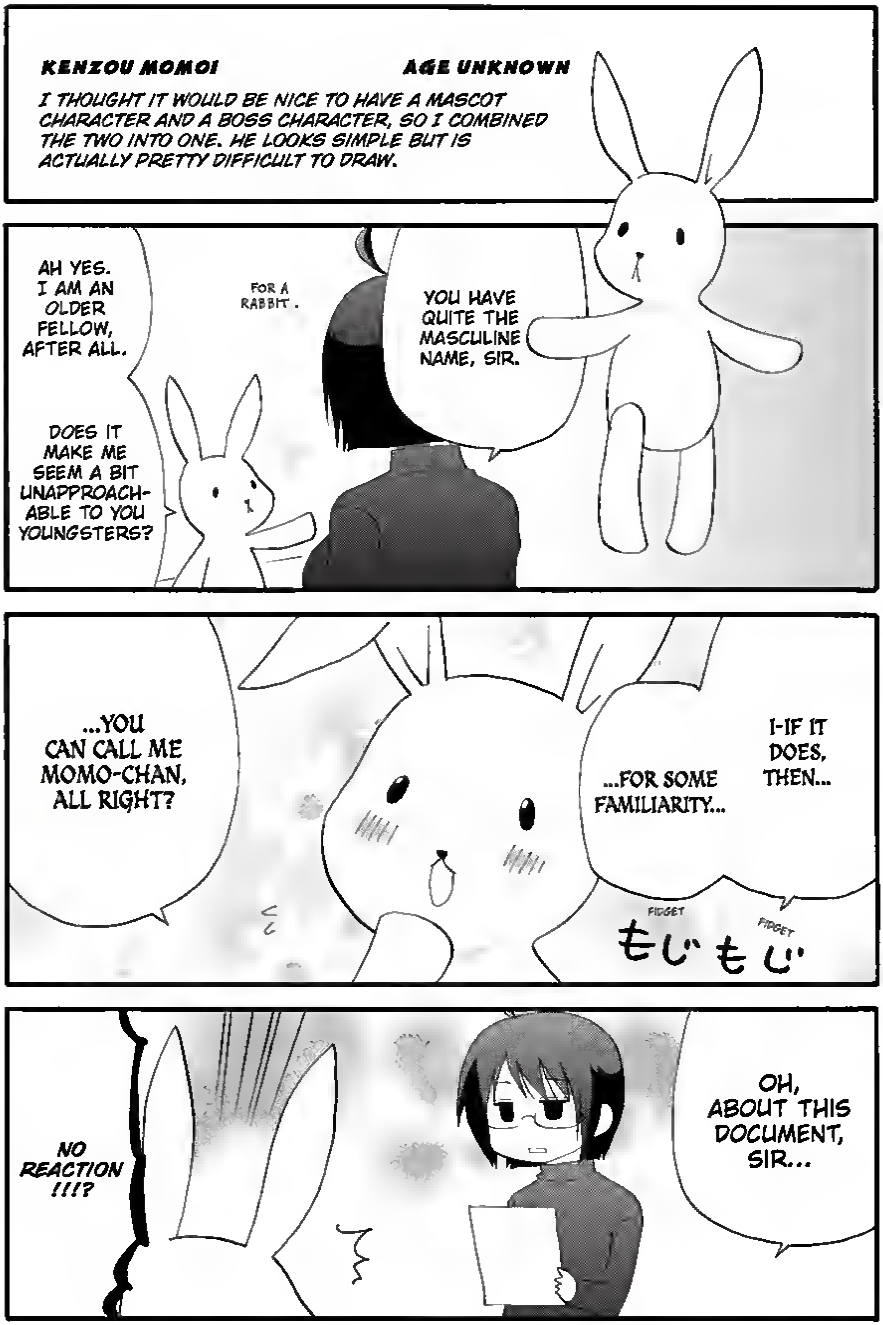
AS A MAN

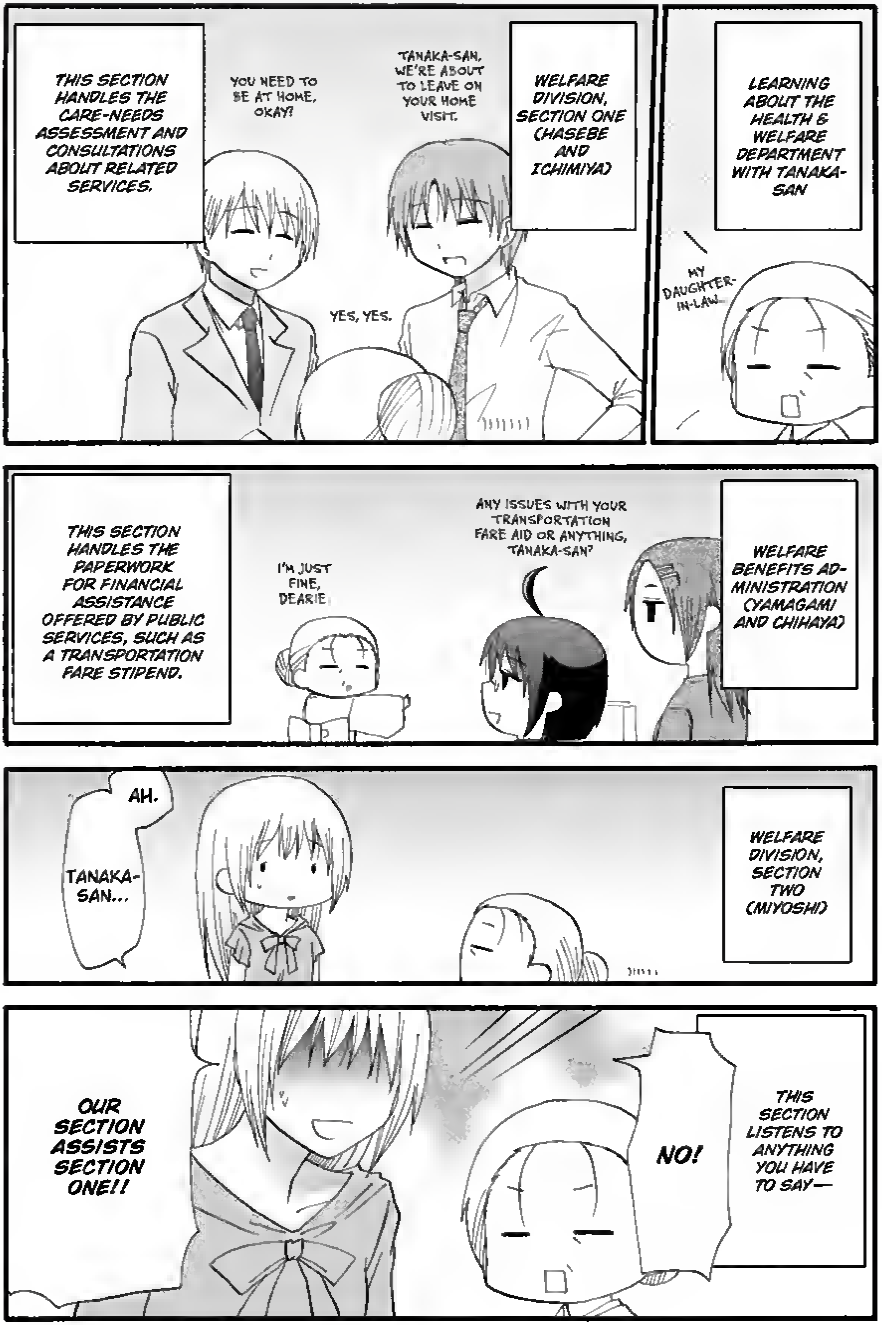
COMPROMISING SITUATION





MIGHT AS WELL
PERPLEXING
.....
ZZZ.
WAKEY-WAKEY, LUCY!
WE MISSED THE LAST TRAIN WHILE I WAS GOOFING OFF!
ACK!
I'M AN IDIOT!!!
ZZZ.
.....
OKAY.
ZZZ.
CAN'T STAY HERE.
NEED SOME-PLACE TO STAY...
WELL, NOW WHAT DO I DO?
... MMF ...
HA... SEBE-SAN?
MMF
HA HA HA
ALL RIGHT!
I MEAN, WHAT'S A GUY TO DO!?
...TO STAY ...
HOTEL
LODGINGS
REST &
YAAAY
TMP
LET'S FIND YOU A NICE PLACE TO SLEEP, 'KAY? ♡
TMP
.....
ZZZ.
HOTEL
LODGINGS
REST &


KENZOU MOMOI
AGE UNKNOWN
I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE NICE TO HAVE A MASCOT CHARACTER AND A BOSS CHARACTER, SO I COMBINED THE TWO INTO ONE. HE LOOKS SIMPLE BUT IS ACTUALLY PRETTY DIFFICULT TO DRAW.
YOU HAVE QUITE THE MASCULINE NAME, SIR.
FOR A RABBIT.
AH YES. I AM AN OLDER FELLOW, AFTER ALL.
DOES IT MAKE ME SEEM A BIT UNAPPROACH-ABLE TO YOU YOUNGSTERS?
I-IF IT DOES, THEN...
...FOR SOME FAMILIARITY...
FIDGET
FIDGET
もじもじ
...YOU CAN CALL ME MOMO-CHAN, ALL RIGHT?
OH, ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT, SIR...
NO REACTION !!!?


THIS SECTION HANDLES THE CARE-NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND CONSULTATIONS ABOUT RELATED SERVICES.
YOU NEED TO BE AT HOME, OKAY?
TANAKA-SAN, WE'RE ABOUT TO LEAVE ON YOUR HOME VISIT.
YES, YES.
WELFARE DIVISION, SECTION ONE (HASEBE AND ICHIMIYA)
LEARNING ABOUT THE HEALTH & WELFARE DEPARTMENT WITH TANAKA-SAN
MY DAUGHTER-IN-LAW...
THIS SECTION HANDLES THE PAPERWORK FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE OFFERED BY PUBLIC SERVICES, SUCH AS A TRANSPORTATION FARE STIPEND.
I'M JUST FINE, DEARIE!
ANY ISSUES WITH YOUR TRANSPORTATION FARE AID OR ANYTHING, TANAKA-SAN?
WELFARE BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION (YAMAGAMI AND CHIHAYA)
AH.
TANAKA-SAN...
WELFARE DIVISION, SECTION TWO (MIYOSHI)
OUR SECTION ASSISTS SECTION ONE!!
NO!
THIS SECTION LISTENS TO ANYTHING YOU HAVE TO SAY—

POSTSCRIPT FOR VOLUME 1

TO MY READERS, OLD AND NEW: GOOD AFTERNOON, GOOD EVENING, GOOD MORNING. THIS IS KARINO TAKATSU. THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR READING *SERVANT X SERVICE*, VOLUME 1.

THIS SERIES BEGAN SERIALIZATION IN EARLY SUMMER IN 2007, I THINK. AS THE SERIES WAS PRINTED IN A MAGAZINE THAT ONLY CAME OUT ON THE FIFTH FRIDAY OF A MONTH, THE SERIES PROGRESSED AT A LEISURELY PACE, AND IT TOOK FOUR YEARS FOR THE FIRST VOLUME TO COME OUT. FOUR YEARS FOR ONE VOLUME! I FEEL MOVED, EMBARRASSED, AND FLABBERGASTED ALL AT ONCE. WHILE I'M FILLED WITH A LOT OF EMOTIONS, THE BIGGEST IS MY HAPPINESS OVER THE COMPILED VOLUME BEING PUBLISHED. THANK YOU.

THE MAGAZINE'S NAME HAS NOW BEEN CHANGED TO *BIG GANGAN*, AND IT HAS MOVED TO MONTHLY ISSUES, SO I BELIEVE THE SERIES SHOULD MOVE ALONG AT SOMETHING OF A FASTER PACE. IF YOU HAPPEN TO SPOT IT IN STORES, I'D BE THRILLED IF YOU CHECK IT OUT. IT COMES OUT ON THE 25TH OF EVERY MONTH.

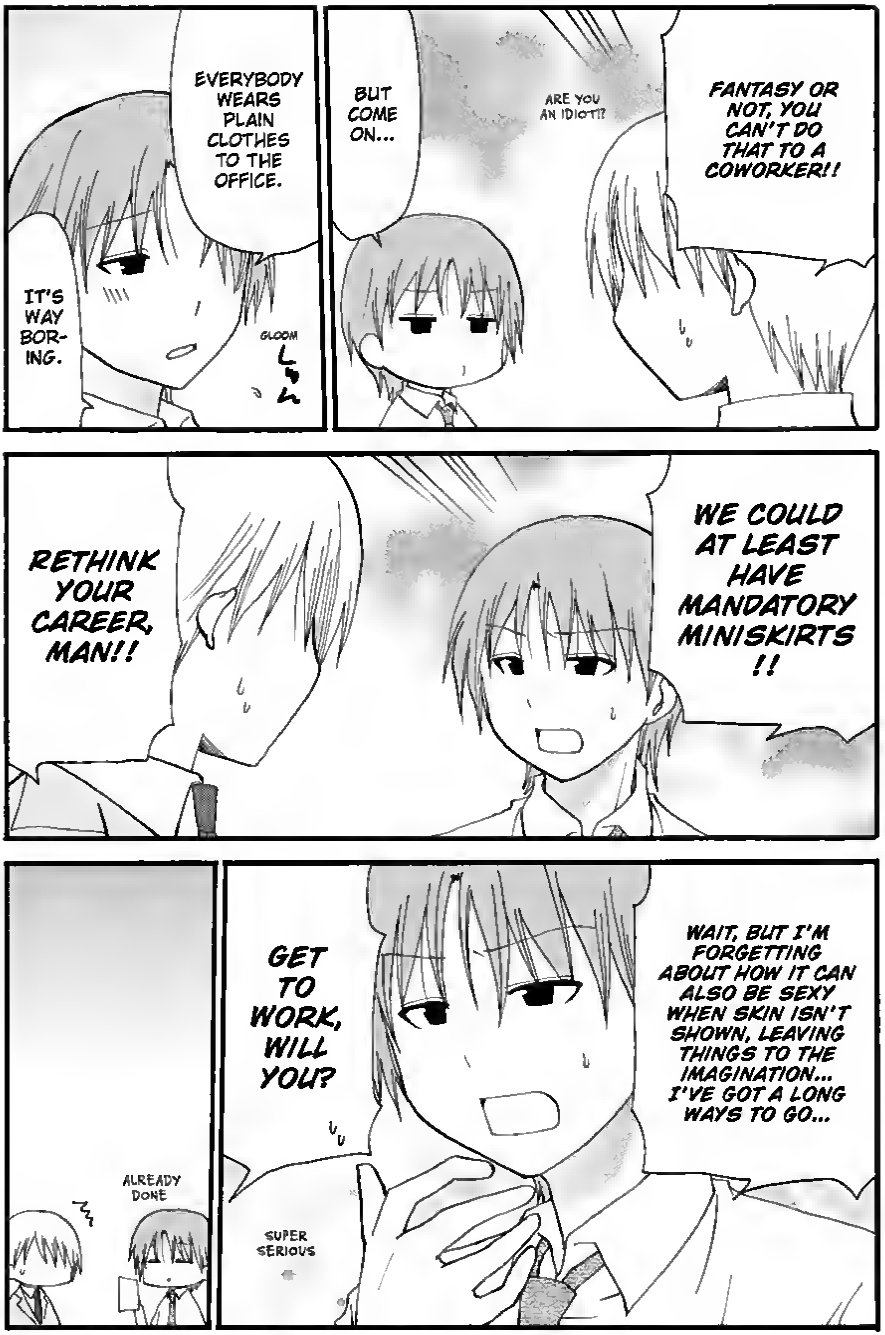
NOW THAT THE MAGAZINE IS MONTHLY, I HAVE TO GET IN GEAR AND DRAW FOR THE SERIES TO CONTINUE! WITH THAT SAID, I'M READY TO WORK HARD TO GET VOLUME 2 OUT. IT WILL BE ON SALE BEFORE WE KNOW IT DESPITE THE LAIDBACK PACE, SO I HOPE YOU'LL KEEP AN EYE OUT AT THE BOOKSTORE SO YOU WON'T MISS ITS RELEASE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT.

UNTIL NEXT TIME.

KARINO TAKATSU

TO MY ASSISTANTS WHO WORK HARD PASTING SCREENTONES WHEN I USE A BIZARRELY LARGE AMOUNT ON THE CHARACTERS, AND TO MY EDITOR, WHO GOES ALONG WITH ME AND MY OUT-OF-NOWHERE IDEAS: THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING YOU DO.

WHAT?
SENPAAAIII ...
WH—
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU? YOU'RE BEING SERIOUS FOR ONCE.....
I THINK THE BEST WAY TO DO THAT IS FOR US EMPLOYEES TO BE PROACTIVE ABOUT PUTTING OURSELVES OUT THERE.
LIKE... WE NEED TO INCREASE THE OFFICE'S APPEAL IN THE EYES OF THE PUBLIC.
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!
LIKE THIS.


EVERYBODY WEARS PLAIN CLOTHES TO THE OFFICE.
IT'S WAY BORING.
GLOOM
BUT COME ON...
ARE YOU AN IDIOT!?
FANTASY OR NOT, YOU CAN'T DO THAT TO A COWORKER!!
RETHINK YOUR CAREER, MAN!!
WE COULD AT LEAST HAVE MANDATORY MINISKIRTS !!
ALREADY DONE
GET TO WORK, WILL YOU?
SUPER SERIOUS
WAIT, BUT I'M FORGETTING ABOUT HOW IT CAN ALSO BE SEXY WHEN SKIN ISN'T SHOWN, LEAVING THINGS TO THE IMAGINATION... I'VE GOT A LONG WAYS TO GO...

TRANSLATION NOTES

Common Honorifics
no honorific: Indicates familiarity or closeness; if used without permission or reason, addressing someone in this manner would constitute an insult.
-san: The Japanese equivalent of Mr./Mrs./Miss. If a situation calls for politeness, this is the fail-safe honorific.
-sama: Conveys great respect; may also indicate that the social status of the speaker is lower than that of the addressee.
-kun: Used most often when referring to boys, this indicates affection or familiarity. Occasionally used by older men among their peers, but it may also be used by anyone referring to a person of lower standing.
***-chan* (also *-tan*)**: An affectionate honorific indicating familiarity used mostly in reference to girls, also used in reference to cute persons or animals of either gender.
-senpai: An honorific used to address upperclassmen or more experienced coworkers.
-sensei: A respectful honorific for teachers, artists, or high-level professionals.

Use of last name: Why does no one bat an eye when Lucy introduces herself by last name only, and insists on being called Yamagami? Because addressing others by their last names is far more pervasive in Japanese than in English, especially among adults. In fact, using someone's first name can be considered extremely rude if you don't know them well enough, especially if you say it without an honorific. Being on a first-name basis with someone typically implies that you're in a close relationship; you're either family, old and/or close friends, or romantically involved. Luckily for Lucy, this means she can introduce herself with only her very Japanese last name, which must save her who knows how many headaches in her everyday life.

PAGE 9
Care-needs assessment: Under long-term care insurance (*kaigo hoken*), which covers people aged forty years or older, beneficiaries apply at their local public services office for a thorough assessment to gauge their medical needs. The results of the assessment determine the level of benefits they receive under the plan.

Childbirth allowance: A lump sum, typically around 400,000 yen in Japan, paid upon the birth of a child as reimbursement for hospital expenses.

PAGE 14
Jugemu Jugemu: A Japanese folktale and famous *rakugo* comedy routine. The tale is of a child who is given a ridiculously long name (much in the same way as Lucy). When he falls into a lake, help barely arrives in time because it takes so long for the townsfolk to recite his name as they pass along the news.

PAGE 27
Taiyaki: A fish-shaped cake, typically filled with red bean paste.

PAGE 35
Yamagomi, Ruushi: Lucy's "alias" is really just "Lucy" with Japanese spelling conventions applied. Instead of writing her name in katakana (which is used for foreign words and names) as it's usually written, she's given it kanji that can conceivably be pronounced the same way, and written the pronunciation out in hiragana (which should immediately make it feel more "Japanese"). But even with that, Ruushi is definitely still a strange name, and putting kanji to it just seems forced, all the more so because one's first instincts might point to that combination of kanji being pronounced "Tomeko" or "Ruko."

PAGE 46
Cold tummy: In Japan, it's believed that keeping your stomach too cold can make you sick. Pregnant women are also advised to keep their stomach sufficiently warm.

PAGE 47
Animeju: A reference to anime magazine *Animage*.

PAGE 63
Obon: The Bon Festival, a holiday honoring the spirits of one's ancestors, lasts for three days, typically around August 15. The doujinshi-selling event Chihaya is referring to is Comiket, which is held twice a year, once in the summer around Obon and once at the end of the year.

Doujinshi: Self-published books. The word typically brings to mind fan-made comics related to anime/manga/videogame properties, but there are also original works, art books, photo collections, novels, etc. Sometimes shortened to just "doujin," in which case it can refer to an even wider variety of self-published creations, including music and video games.

PAGE 64
Hasebe's videogames: FF stands for *Final Fantasy*. DQ stands for *Dragon Quest*. TokiMemo is short for *Tokimeki Memorial*, a classic dating sim series. *AIR* and the *Fate* series both started out as adult-only visual novels.

PAGE 84
Tsundere: A character (usually female) who is short-tempered and sour on the outside, but sweet and caring on the inside.

PAGE 133
Drinking parties: Going out for a drinking party, or *nomikai*, is an important part of Japanese work culture. Employees are generally expected to attend, as the party is meant to encourage building closer relationships with one's coworkers. Naturally, there's a lot of drinking—but what happens at a *nomikai*, stays at a *nomikai*.

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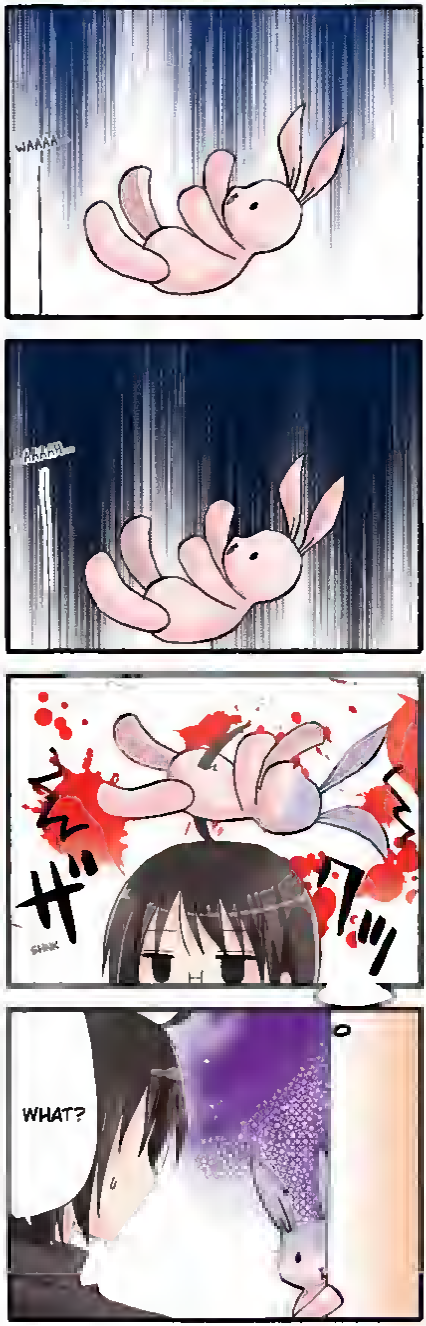

SERVANT X SERVICE ❶

Karino Takatsu

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